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US, Iran announce agreement; signing set for Friday in Geneva

Breakthrough deal aims to ease tensions and restore maritime stability

GENEVA

The United States and Iran have announced a major diplomatic breakthrough, saying an agreement to end the US blockade of Iranian ports and reopen the strategic Strait of Hormuz will be formally signed in Geneva on Friday, raising hopes of easing tensions in the Middle East.

The announcement triggered a sharp reaction in global markets, with oil prices falling to their lowest levels in nearly three months amid expectations that shipping and energy supplies through the Gulf region could soon normalize.

US President Donald Trump said the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz would help stabilize global trade and energy markets. However, uncertainty remains over the exact contents of the agreement, as neither side has released the full text and Washington and Tehran have offered differing accounts of what the deal entails.

The development comes after weeks of heightened regional tensions and military confrontations. Iran has indicated that the agreement includes provisions linked to ending hostilities in southern Lebanon, but Israel has rejected that interpretation.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said Israeli forces would not withdraw from southern Lebanon despite Tehran's claims. The disagreement emerged hours after Israeli strikes on Beirut reportedly angered Trump, who publicly criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The agreement has been welcomed internationally as a step toward de-escalation.

"We have reached an agreement that will restore stability and reopen key maritime routes."
-Donald Trump, US President

Agreement signing: **Friday, June 19**
Venue: Geneva, Switzerland
Strait of Hormuz to reopen
US blockade of Iranian ports to end
Oil prices fall to 3-month lowports to end
Issue expected to dominate G7 discussionsmonth lowports to end

Why the Strait of Hormuz Matters

- Carries nearly one-fifth of global oil trade
- Critical route linking Gulf producers to world markets
- Any disruption impacts global fuel prices and shipping costs

Outstanding Questions

- Full text of agreement not released
- US and Iran differ on post-signing commitments
- Israel disputes claims regarding Lebanon provisions

Modi welcomes US-Iran understanding

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the understanding reached between the United States and Iran to end the conflict in West Asia, expressing hope that the agreement would restore peace and stability in the region. In a post on X, Modi said the conflict had caused significant economic disruption globally and resulted in loss of lives across several countries. He voiced confidence that implementation of the agreement would ensure freedom of navigation and commerce, particularly in key maritime routes. The Prime Minister also said India looked forward to discussions on the remaining issues culminating in a sustainable and lasting final agreement.

Iran wary despite breakthrough deal with US

Iran has said that "deep mistrust" of the United States remains despite the announcement of a peace agreement aimed at ending the conflict and reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran's Foreign Ministry stated that while the deal represents a significant diplomatic step, confidence between the two countries has yet to be restored. Iran also said the US has committed to facilitating access to Iranian frozen funds, though no direct transfer of money to Tehran is planned. Meanwhile, regional leaders welcomed the agreement, hoping it would stabilize the Middle East, revive global trade, and help bring a lasting end to hostilities involving Israel, Lebanon and Iran-backed groups.

India, Slovakia elevate ties to Comprehensive Partnership: PM Modi

First-ever visit by Indian Prime Minister marks new chapter in ties

BRATISLAVA

India and Slovakia on Monday agreed to elevate their bilateral relationship to the level of a Comprehensive Partnership, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing the move as a reflection of shared priorities, mutual trust and a common vision for the future.

During delegation-level talks with Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, Modi thanked Slovakia for its support in advancing negotiations on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and expressed hope for its early conclusion.

"The Comprehensive Partnership between India and Slovakia symbolises our shared beliefs, shared priorities and our shared future."
-Narendra Modi, PM

The two leaders witnessed the exchange of several Memorandums of Understanding and finalized a Letter of Intent on defence cooperation, aimed at strengthening collaboration between the defence industries of both countries.

Fico praised India's rapid economic growth, digital transformation and advances in artificial intelligence, calling India a global success story.

Slovakia reiterated its support for India's aspiration to secure a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Discussions between the two sides also covered cooperation in automobiles, railway development, artificial intelligence, digitalisation and investment. Modi received a ceremonial welcome in Bratislava and met Slovak President Peter Pellegrini during the second leg of his European tour.

Fico said India and Slovakia are connected by several common interests and noted that India's achievements in technology and economic growth offer valuable lessons for Europe. He remarked that India has moved ahead of many advanced nations in digitalisation and the adoption of artificial intelligence.

Key Outcomes

- India-Slovakia ties elevated to Comprehensive Partnership
- Defence cooperation framework strengthened
- Support reiterated for India-EU FTA
- Focus on trade, investment and innovation
- Enhanced cooperation in manufacturing and technology

Ensure supply of seeds, fertilisers; prepare for drought, CM tells officials

"Farmers must receive the information, infrastructure and support required to face any challenge during the farming season."
-DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

KEY DIRECTIONS

- Ensure adequate supply of seeds and fertilisers
- Prepare contingency plans for drought and floods
- Promote drones and AI in agriculture
- Fill vacant departmental posts
- Strengthen farmer awareness programmes

BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday directed officials to ensure adequate availability of seeds and fertilisers for farmers and take advance measures to tackle possible drought conditions during the ongoing agricultural season.

Reviewing the progress of the Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture and Fisheries departments at Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar instructed officials to provide farmers with timely information and remain prepared to address both drought and excessive rainfall situations.

"Natural calamities should not disrupt agricultural activities. Departments must remain prepared and ensure all support reaches farmers on time," Shivakumar said.

The Chief Minister also asked officials to promote the use of modern technologies such as drones and artificial intelligence in farming and expedite the filling of vacant posts at taluk and hobli levels.

He directed departments to assess the effectiveness of subsidy schemes, prepare reports on cold storage and warehouse facilities, and study the functioning of corporations and boards under the Agriculture Department.

The Chief Minister also expressed concern over misuse of interest-free loans provided through cooperative institutions. He directed officials to ensure benefits reach genuine farmers and prevent irregularities. Referring to crop losses, Shivakumar noted that mango crops worth ₹1,068 crore had been damaged this year. As per norms, compensation of ₹229 crore is payable, with the State and Centre sharing the burden. He instructed officials to ensure eligible mango growers receive compensation without delay and to improve utilisation of APMC funds for farmer welfare.

CM pays tribute to Suraj Hegde

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday paid rich tributes to late Suraj Hegde, describing him as a symbol of party loyalty, sacrifice and unwavering commitment to public service.

Speaking at a condolence meeting held in Bengaluru in memory of Hegde, who served as AICC Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee, Shivakumar said the Congress leader had won the affection and respect of colleagues through his dedication and friendship.

Recalling Hegde's contribution to the party, he added, "We have lost a friend, a worker and a leader. He lived a life guided by ideals. He was a disciplined soldier of the party who embodied sacrifice, honesty and a sense of duty, working without ever seeking power or position."

Priyank Kharge writes to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge has written to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat seeking clarity on the organisation's legal status, sources of income and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

In his letter, Kharge requested that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh depute authorised office-bearers to explain the legal framework under which it functions. He asked the organisation to publicly disclose details regarding its legal status, office-bearers, sources of donations and income, expenditure, assets, tax compliance, permissions for public events and the basis on which it conducts activities without formal registration.

Congratulating the RSS on completing 100 years, Kharge acknowledged its significant presence in public life but argued that its vast reach makes transparency and accountability essential. Citing RSS figures, he noted that the organisation runs over 60,000 shakhas across the country.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke slapped during Jaipur protest, two detained

JAIPUR

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was allegedly slapped and manhandled during a protest gathering in Jaipur on Monday, triggering tension at the venue and prompting police intervention. Two youths have been detained in connection with the incident, and further investigation is underway.

Dipke was being carried on the shoulders of supporters near Shaheed Smarak when a group of men reportedly pulled him by his scarf and slapped him multiple times. Videos of the incident quickly surfaced on social media, showing a brief scuffle before supporters and police stepped in.

The protest had drawn a large number of students and young people demanding action on issues such as the NEET paper leak, unemployment and alleged corruption. Dipke was about to address the gathering when the incident occurred.

Ashoka urges citizens to launch letter campaign against 'garbage scam'

BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka on Monday called upon Bengaluru residents, civic groups and apartment associations to launch a letter-writing campaign against the city's solid waste management tender, alleging that the ₹39,437-crore project was a major scam that would burden future generations.

Addressing a press conference, Ashoka claimed the long-term garbage management contract would affect Bengaluru's development for decades and urged citizens to write to the Governor and the President of India seeking intervention.

"This concerns the next 30 years of Bengaluru's future. Citizens must come together and protect the city from becoming a victim of a massive garbage scam," he said.

Ashoka said he had already submitted complaints to the Lokayukta, the Governor and a high-level inquiry committee, demanding a transparent investigation into the tender process. He also indicated that he was prepared to seek a CBI probe if required.

AADHAAR IDENTITY PLEA

SC to hear plea on Aadhaar use only as identity proof today

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is set to hear today a public interest litigation seeking strict enforcement of Aadhaar's use solely as proof of identity and not as evidence of citizenship, domicile, residential address or date of birth.

The plea, filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, contends that Aadhaar is being widely misused in various official processes despite clear legal provisions limiting its scope. It seeks directions to the Centre, state governments and the Election Commission of India to ensure that Aadhaar is treated only as an identity document.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana is expected to hear the matter.

According to the petition, Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 explicitly states that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship or domicile. The petitioner argues that its use as proof of residence and date of birth in voter registration and other applications is contrary to the law and could create loopholes in verification systems.

The plea further alleges that inadequate scrutiny may allow illegal immigrants and infiltrators to obtain official documents and gain entry into electoral databases using Aadhaar-linked credentials. It seeks stronger safeguards and stricter compliance with the Aadhaar Act to prevent misuse. The case is likely to reignite debate over the scope and legal status of Aadhaar in public administration, welfare delivery and electoral processes.

What the plea seeks

The PIL calls for a comprehensive review of verification procedures used in voter registration and public services. It also seeks the formation of a high-powered monitoring committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, along with cybersecurity and forensic experts, to oversee reforms and ensure Aadhaar is used strictly for identity authentication and not as proof of citizenship, domicile, address or age.

GenNext entrepreneurship development programme launched

MYSURU

The GenNext Initiative of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), supported by the Infosys Foundation, has launched a 10-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) at the Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development (V-LEAD), Mysuru.

Fourteen aspiring entrepreneurs from different parts of Karnataka have enrolled in the programme, which aims to foster entrepreneurial skills, business acumen, and leadership qualities among youth interested in starting and managing their own enterprises. The inauguration of the programme was held on Monday.

Rangaswamy Mookanahally, economist, author, and columnist, who was the Chief Guest, spoke on the importance of developing a business mindset for entrepreneurial success and emphasized the need to focus on cash flows, maintain financial discipline, and clearly separate personal finances from business finances. He also highlighted the importance of innovation and creativity in building sustainable and successful businesses.

Vanishree V Chikamagalur, Vice President – Strategic Deal Management, Infosys Limited, who was the guest of honour, shared her entrepreneurial experiences and spoke about how she engages in agricultural activities during her free time. She explained how agricultural produce can be marketed effectively through platforms such as the Sunday Shandy and encouraged participants to explore innovative income-generating opportunities.

Kanakaraju C, Faculty, V-LEAD, provided an overview of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme under the GenNext Initiative. He explained that the programme is designed to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence required to establish and manage successful enterprises.

Sharing his entrepreneurial journey, Manoj Sebastian, Head, TRAC, SVYM, narrated how he began his business venture while studying in the eighth standard. He encouraged participants to cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit from a young age, remain resilient in the face of challenges, and seize opportunities for growth.

The programme focuses on entrepreneurship development through interactive sessions, practical learning opportunities, mentoring, and exposure to successful business models. As part of the programme, first-generation entrepreneurs and established businesspersons will interact with the participants, providing valuable insights into real-world business challenges and opportunities.

The organisers expressed confidence that the programme would inspire and prepare young people to pursue entrepreneurship as a viable career option and contribute to economic development through enterprise creation.

Congress Govt failed in education, governance and administration

MYSURU

Former Deputy Chief Minister and BJP MLA Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government in Karnataka, alleging that it has failed in key sectors such as education, law and order, and administration, while also lacking clarity on crucial policy matters.

Addressing a press conference in Mysuru, he said the state government was struggling with internal contradictions and administrative confusion. Referring to issues surrounding educational reforms, he claimed that the government had failed to provide a coherent policy direction and remained uncertain over the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) and the State Education Policy (SEP).

Commenting on the NEET examination controversy, the BJP leader said any instance of paper leaks or irregularities must be dealt with firmly and, if necessary, through re-examinations to protect merit and ensure fairness to students. There are instances of examination paper leaks in Karnataka and accused the state government of failing to address such concerns effectively.

The former DyCM alleged that divisions within the ruling Congress were becoming increasingly visible, with ministers making contradictory statements on various issues. According to him, the government was under growing pressure due to internal differences and administrative shortcomings.

On the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Dr. Ashwath Narayan said the exercise was a nationwide initiative aimed at ensuring clean and accurate voter lists. The revision process was intended to remove irregularities, prevent duplication and ensure that every eligible citizen had only one vote. The citizens to cooperate with election officials during the enumeration process scheduled between June 30 and August 3.

Turning to the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led Union Government, he said the Prime Minister's 12 years in office had transformed the country through welfare schemes, infrastructure development, digital governance, healthcare initiatives and economic reforms. The programmes such as Ayushman Bharat, Jan Dhan Yojana, Direct Benefit Transfer, PM Awas Yojana and rural electrification as examples of inclusive development.

Dr. Ashwath Narayan also cited improvements in roads, railways, airports, digital infrastructure, renewable energy and agricultural support measures. India had emerged as a global leader in digital public infrastructure through initiatives such as UPI and had enhanced its international standing through active engagement in global forums.

Responding to questions on inflation and fuel prices, he attributed rising costs largely to global factors, including international conflicts and fluctuations in crude oil prices, while asserting that India had managed inflation better than many other countries.

MP Yaduveer honoured with 'Saraswathipuram Civilian Award'

MYSURU

MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wodeyar said that it was his privilege to work for the people.

Speaking after receiving the 'Saraswathipuram Civilian Award' at a function held at the Ram Mandir in Saraswathipuram, Mysore on Sunday, he said they are all working together with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build a strong India. As an MP, he had been working on development for the last two years. He would like to express his heartfelt gratitude to the Saraswathipuram area, the people of Mysore city and Prime Minister Modi for giving me this opportunity.

The MP said the Pallava king used to sweep the garbage at the Meenakshi temple. There is a huge stone in the Tirupati temple. There is information that the kings built it with the intention of 'moving around'. An image of Goddess Chamundeshwari depicted in a Mysore painting in the palace. Sri Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar has made a three-pointed sign on the face of Mahishasura with the intention that the feet of Mother Chamundeshwari should always be on his head.

He refused to comment on the statements of his opponents as his goal was to provide good governance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is his political inspiration. He inspired him to enter. " Do we need politics? Some people have asked me. Yes, I said that I needed a political field to work in. My answer is yes".

Krishnaraja Assembly MLA T.S. Srivatsa delivered a congratulatory speech and praised Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wodeyar, who is also an MP, as the Maharaja for the common people. He is administering the state in the style of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar.

Former MLA L. Nagendra presided over the function and spoke. Shankar Jayanti Sabha President Sundaresh and Vasavi Sabha Mantapa President Shantaram were present.

Former Mayor of the Municipal Corporation R. Lingappa welcomed the dignitaries. Rajesh compered the program. Shobharani proposed the vote of thanks.

> **"There is still a lot of development work to be done in Kodagu and Mysore districts. I am giving priority to organization and development work through continuous touring. Good work is being done through the BJP organization. It is possible to reach the booth level only with a strong organization".**
>
> —Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar

'Sundara Kanda' at BVB, Mysuru on June 20

MYSURU

As part of monthly music program, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mysore Kendra has organized "Sundara Kanda" Programme by Kalayogi Guru Vidwan Sri Raghu Nandan S and team at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Vijayanagar 1st Stage, Mysore on June 20 at 6 PM.

About the artist

Kalayogi Guru Vidwan Sri Raghu Nandan, is a performer of high calibre, a creative choreographer and a dedicated teacher. He is an artist devoted to the field of Bharatanatyam. He proudly continues the legacy passed down from his grandfather Natyacharya Guru H R Keshava Murthy who was a central S. N. A. awardee. He is the son and disciple of Karnataka Kalashree Dr. Guru Shri B K Shyam Prakash and Vidushi Smt Geetha Shyam Prakash.

Raghu Nandan is Awarded with the prestigious "Kalaa Yogi" tile from Indian Council of Cultural Relation Bangalore in 2016· His other awards include: "Bharatashree" title - Hubli, Karnataka, "Abhinaya Best Classical dancer" - Eluru, Andhra Pradesh "Godavari Sanman" - Khajuraho, Mandhya Pradesh and "Male Performer of the year - Purva School of Bharatanatyam, Vadodara.

GREEN INITIATIVE GAINS MOMENTUM

Call for citywide expansion of environmental drive

MYSURU

Mysuru-Kodagu Lok Sabha member Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar said that he believed the ongoing programme to enhance greenery is a positive development. The commendable initiative being carried out today in Kempu Cheluvajjamani Layout to make the area greener should be expanded across the entire city.

The event also featured an exhibition introducing the "Mother Earth Recovery Initiative," a global movement that encourages people around the world to care for the planet with a mother's heart and work together to restore a thriving environment where all forms of life can flourish in harmony.

The initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and communities affected by climate disasters and environmental degradation. As part of this effort, the "Forests of Hope" campaign promotes conservation activities tailored to the local climate conditions of different countries. The campaign helps enhance biodiversity, strengthens the ability of forests to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, and supports the recovery of the global ecosystem.

So far, the World Mission Society Church of God has undertaken various environmental activities across Karnataka to improve and support local communities. These initiatives include tree-planting drives and cleanliness campaigns. Through its worldwide blood donation campaign, "Giving Life Through the Love of the Passover," church members have donated life-saving blood to neighbours in need. The organisation has also supported local communities by visiting ashrams and providing volunteer cleaning services.

In recognition of these efforts, the church has received awards and certificates of appreciation from several government officials and local leaders in India, including the Minister for Social Justice and Special Assistance of Maharashtra, the Health Minister of Chhattisgarh, and ministers from Mumbai, Ahmednagar, and Vasai-Virar.

About the World Mission Society Church of God.

NATURE WALK AT KUKKARAHALLI LAKE HIGHLIGHTS BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION CONCERNS

MYSURU

As part of the ongoing 'Parisara Habba', a special nature walk organised at Kukkarahalli Lake on Sunday drew around 40 participants from various age groups, who gained insights into the lake's ecosystem, biodiversity, trees, and birdlife.

The walk, which began at 7.30 a.m., saw enthusiastic participation from citizens ranging in age from 95-year-old H.R. Bapu Satyanarayana to children as young as four years. Guided by environmentalist U.N. Ravikumar, the programme provided participants with information on the lake's ecological system, water flow channels, conservation efforts, and the historical significance of Kukkarahalli Lake in relation to Mysuru's heritage.

During the walk, participants identified 35 species of birds, including the Pelican, Great Heron, Pond Heron, Purple Swamphen, Great Cormorant, Little Cormorant, Brahminy Kite, and Grey Hornbill. Ravikumar also explained the life cycle of the hornbill and highlighted the bird's remarkable loyalty to its mate.

The participants were introduced to several tree species found around the lake, including Banyan, Nagalinga (Cannonball Tree), Peepal, Jamun, Date Palm, Sandalwood, Jackfruit, Pongamia, and Bugari, along with their ecological significance.

Ravikumar pointed out that trees such as Date Palm, Jamun, and Banyan growing along the lake's banks help prevent soil erosion and support water conservation. Jamun trees, he noted, also play a role in maintaining water quality.

The programme also drew attention to environmental challenges facing the lake. Participants were informed that invasive species such as Subabul and Senna septabulus are hindering the growth of native vegetation and require effective control measures.

Another major concern highlighted was the inflow of untreated sewage from Paduvarahalli and surrounding areas into the lake, leading to water pollution and posing a threat to fish populations and birdlife. Environmentalists also expressed concern that the island located in the middle of the lake is gradually submerging, endangering the nesting habitats of six to seven species of birds that depend on it for breeding.

The nature walk concluded at 9 a.m., leaving participants with a deeper understanding of Kukkarahalli Lake's ecological importance, rich biodiversity, and the urgent need for its conservation.

Meritorious students and social contributors honoured

MYSURU

Karnataka Sena Pade organised the celebration of Sri Shankaracharya and Philosophers' Day at the Sri Sharada Sringeri Shankar Math in Agrahara, Mysuru, on Sunday.

As part of the programme, meritorious students who secured high marks in the SSLC and PUC examinations were felicitated for their academic achievements. Several individuals who have rendered notable service to society were also honoured with the prestigious "Shankara Seva Ratna" Award in recognition of their contributions.

The event was attended by several distinguished guests, including Dr. K. Raghuram Vajpayee, Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council (MLC), C.N. Manjegowda, former MUDA Chairman, Rajeev, and Dr. Leela Prakash K.

Among those present were Charam Srinivas Gowda, State President of Karnataka Sena Pade; Tejas Lokesh Gowda, District President; and Dr. Shantaraj Urs, Vice-President of the organisation.

The programme highlighted the teachings and philosophy of Sri Shankaracharya while recognising excellence in education and selfless service to society. The organisers said such events help inspire the younger generation and promote values of knowledge, service, and cultural heritage.

Urs Road Goes Green & Clean: MCC Launches 'No Litter Road' Mission

MCC UNVEILS 'NO LITTER ROAD'

Shopkeepers join hands to beautify Devaraja Urs Road

MYSURU

Mysuru's iconic D. Devaraja Urs Road is set to become a shining example of urban cleanliness and civic participation with the Mysore City Corporation (MCC) formally launching its 'No Litter Road' initiative on Monday.

MCC Commissioner Shaikh Asif Tanveer inaugurated newly installed steel dustbins along the bustling commercial stretch, marking a major step towards transforming one of the city's busiest roads into a model clean street. The nearly one-kilometre-long road, located in the heart of Mysuru's Central Business District, witnesses thousands of visitors and shoppers every day.

To make waste disposal easier and discourage littering, the MCC has strategically placed steel dustbins in front of several shops. The initiative has received an enthusiastic response from traders and business owners, who have joined hands with the civic body to enhance the road's appearance.

Adding a splash of colour and charm to the street, shopkeepers have begun placing decorative flower pots outside their establishments. Already, more than half of the traders have adopted the idea, creating an attractive streetscape filled with vibrant blooms. Officials expect the entire stretch to be adorned with colourful flower pots within the next 15 days, giving the road a fresh and inviting look.

Commissioner Shaikh Asif Tanveer told City Hilights that the MCC is committed to maintaining the road's cleanliness through an intensive cleaning schedule. Corporation workers will clean the road three times a day—during the afternoon, evening and night—while a mechanised sweeping machine will be deployed during night hours to ensure spotless surroundings.

The Commissioner appealed to citizens to support the initiative by refraining from throwing garbage on the road. "Keeping the city clean is a shared responsibility. Citizens should also encourage others not to litter and help preserve the beauty of this important commercial street," he said.

Buoyed by the encouraging response, the MCC is now planning to extend the 'No Litter Road' concept to other major streets across Mysuru. The initiative is part of a broader vision to keep the heritage city neat, attractive and tourist-friendly, especially as lakhs of visitors arrive in Mysuru every year.

With cleanliness, greenery and community participation coming together, Urs Road is fast emerging as a symbol of a cleaner and more beautiful Mysuru.

SEWAGE IN DRINKING WATER SPARKS ALARM IN GANGOTHRI LAYOUT

Illnesses raise health concerns among residents

MYSURU

Residents of Gangothri Layout have raised serious concerns over the contamination of drinking water in their neighbourhood, urging the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to take immediate and permanent corrective measures before the issue escalates into a major public health crisis.

In a memorandum submitted to the MCC Commissioner, residents stated that sewage-mixed water was supplied to several parts of the layout, particularly in the 1st, 12th and 13th Cross areas, from May 31 onwards. The foul-smelling and visibly contaminated water entered household sumps and storage tanks, leaving hundreds of residents vulnerable to health risks.

According to the residents, many people unknowingly used the polluted water for drinking and domestic purposes before the contamination was detected. As a result, several residents, including children and senior citizens, reportedly suffered from vomiting, diarrhoea, fever and other water-borne illnesses.

Following repeated complaints, local civic officials visited the area and initiated preliminary measures. Residents said the situation appeared to improve from June 8, providing temporary relief. However, they fear that the problem could recur at any time unless the root cause is identified and addressed.

The affected families were forced to spend their own money to clean and disinfect household sumps and overhead tanks after the contamination. Despite these efforts, anxiety continues to prevail in the locality.

Residents pointed out that extensive underground drainage works are currently underway across Gangothri Layout. They suspect that sewage may be entering the drinking water pipelines through damaged or improperly connected sections of the network. Unless the exact point of contamination is identified, they warned, the risk of another outbreak remains high.

In their memorandum, the residents have urged the MCC to deploy experienced engineers and technical experts to conduct a comprehensive inspection of both the water supply and underground drainage systems. They have called for a scientific investigation to trace the source of contamination and implement a long-term solution rather than temporary fixes.

The residents also cautioned civic authorities against complacency, citing past incidents in other cities where contaminated drinking water led to outbreaks of infectious diseases and even fatalities. "The Corporation must act before a preventable health disaster unfolds. Public health cannot be left to chance," the memorandum stated.

With concerns mounting over the safety of drinking water, Gangothri Layout residents are now looking to the civic administration for swift action and a lasting remedy to restore confidence in the city's water supply system.

Two die, seven hurt in Mysuru bar and restaurant fire mishap

MYSURU

Two people were killed and seven others sustained serious injuries in a fire accident that broke out at a bar and restaurant in Dattagalli, R.T. Nagar area of Mysuru on Monday.

According to preliminary reports, the fire is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit at the Fox Den Liquor Garage Bar and Restaurant located near the Ring Road in Dattagalli. The blaze rapidly spread through the premises, trapping several people inside.

The deceased have been identified as Sahil and Prakash, who were reportedly present in the kitchen when the fire broke out. Seven others suffered serious injuries and were rescued by personnel from the Fire and Emergency Services Department.

Sources said that more than 25 people were inside the bar and restaurant at the time of the incident. Following the outbreak of the fire, thick smoke engulfed the building, triggering panic among customers and staff. In a desperate attempt to escape, some individuals reportedly jumped from the upper floor of the building.

Firefighters rushed to the spot immediately after receiving information about the incident and launched rescue operations. The fire was brought under control after considerable effort, preventing it from spreading further.

The injured were shifted to two private hospitals for treatment. Their condition is being closely monitored by medical authorities.

Police and fire department officials have begun an investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire and assess whether safety norms were being followed at the establishment.

The tragic incident has raised concerns about fire safety measures in commercial establishments across the city. Further details are awaited as authorities continue their inquiry into the accident.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime and traffic) K.S.Sundarraj, MCC Commissioner Shaikh Asif Tanveer and officials from other departments visited the spot.

Yatri Suvidha Diwas 2026 takes off in style at Mysuru Airport

Passengers receive royal Mysuru welcome

MYSURU

Mysuru Airport came alive with colour, culture and celebration as the Airports Authority of India (AAI) observed Yatri Suvidha Diwas 2026 with great enthusiasm on Monday, reaffirming its commitment to passenger-friendly services, community engagement and environmental sustainability.

The celebrations were inaugurated by Prabhuswamy V.M., Deputy Director, Tourism Department, Government of Karnataka, who lit the ceremonial lamp at the terminal premises. The programme began with the rendition of Vande Mataram and featured a vibrant showcase of Karnataka's rich cultural heritage through captivating performances of Bharatanatyam, Nadaswaram, Dollu Kunitha and group dances by various stakeholders.

Passengers travelling through Mysuru Airport were treated to a memorable traditional welcome. They were greeted with Tika, handmade flower bouquets, Mysore shawls, Mysore Pak, seed balls, greeting cards and tourism brochures, creating a warm and festive atmosphere. Adding to the excitement, the airport mascots Ammu and Gajju interacted with travellers, while retail and food outlets offered special discounts. Live quizzes and solo singing performances at the Security Hold Area further enhanced the celebratory mood.

Highlighting the airport's commitment to social responsibility, Safai Karmacharis were felicitated for their dedicated service. Women personnel associated with KSISF and frontline airline operations were also honoured for their invaluable contributions. Free health screening camps covering blood pressure, blood sugar, BMI and eye examinations were conducted with the support of JSS Hospital and Agarwal Eye Hospital, benefiting airport staff and stakeholders.

In the lead-up to the event, Mysuru Airport organized a series of community outreach programmes, including familiarization visits for school students to the Flight Training Organization, Terminal Building and Fire Station. Painting competitions, an Eco Drive and a Herbal Plantation Programme were also conducted to encourage environmental awareness among the younger generation.

A major highlight of the celebrations was the inauguration of a Herbal Garden by passengers, symbolizing the airport's dedication to green initiatives and sustainable development.

The successful event was made possible through the active participation and support of organizations such as the Hotel Owners Association (HOA), Mysore Travel Association (MTA), Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Mahalakshmi Sweets, JSS Institutions, and the Department of Kannada and Culture, Government of Karnataka.

The entire programme was coordinated by P.V. Ushakumari, Airport Director, Mysuru Airport, who ensured seamless execution of activities and enthusiastic stakeholder participation.

Through Yatri Suvidha Diwas 2026, AAI Mysuru Airport expressed its gratitude to passengers and partners while promoting a culture of service excellence, inclusivity, sustainability and community participation, making the airport experience truly memorable for all.

FOOTPATHS FOR PEOPLE, NOT ENCROACHMENTS

MGP calls for systemic action in Mysuru

MYSURU

Mysuru's growing footpath encroachment problem took centre stage at the June monthly meeting of the Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP), where civic officials, police officers, urban planners and citizen representatives discussed long-term solutions to ensure safer and more accessible public spaces for pedestrians.

Officials from the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), including Zonal Assistant Commissioner Satyamurthy and Junior Engineer Kavita, informed the gathering that efforts are underway to identify alternative locations for footpath vendors. While they clarified that policy decisions rest with higher authorities, they assured participants that the concerns raised by MGP would be conveyed to the appropriate levels of government.

Adding an academic perspective to the discussion, Dr. H. S. Champa, Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Mysore, shared findings from a detailed study conducted by architecture students on footpath usage across the city. The study examined pedestrian movement, street vending patterns, footpath widths, economic activities and public behaviour.

Students documented extensive data from various neighbourhoods and highlighted how encroachments often force pedestrians onto busy roads, compromising safety. The research also revealed the challenges faced by survey teams, with some vendors cooperating and others reacting defensively. Importantly, the study identified several locations where vendors could be relocated without affecting pedestrian mobility.

A strong police presence at the meeting underscored the seriousness of the issue. Officials reiterated that safeguarding pedestrian rights remains a key responsibility of law enforcement agencies. Participants noted that recent court observations have emphasized that safe and unobstructed footpaths are a fundamental requirement for urban living. Police representatives stressed that while the livelihoods of street vendors must be protected, public pathways cannot be permanently occupied at the cost of pedestrian safety.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Shivashankar and other senior officers advocated a broader, city-wide approach rather than addressing isolated complaints street by street. They argued that footpath encroachment is a systemic challenge requiring coordinated action by civic agencies, police and the public. The ACP also lamented the lack of civic discipline among many road users and stressed the need for stronger public awareness and enforcement measures.

Outsource fine collection

One of the major suggestions discussed was the possibility of outsourcing traffic fine collection to improve efficiency and accountability. MGP members pointed out that the proposal has been under discussion for years and urged the government to take a decision. Police officials responded that the matter has already been referred to higher authorities for consideration.

The meeting ended in a positive note, with MGP assuring full cooperation to the police in improving traffic management and protecting pedestrian rights. Participants agreed that reclaiming footpaths for citizens will require not only enforcement but also civic responsibility, urban planning and sustained public participation.

QUICK READ

Not brand, but bad B'luru: BJP leader

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
BJP state in-charge and national general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal has accused DK Shivakumar, Ramalinga Reddy and Krishna Byre Gowda of committing economic extortion of Karnataka. "Bengaluru is a center of corruption." Speaking at a meeting of Shakti Kendra leaders from the Byatarayanapura assembly constituency here recently, he said no development work are happening here. "This is abad Bengaluru," he said. State BJP co-in-charge Sudhakar Reddy and Secretary HC Tammesh Gowda also spoke on the occasion.

MP Surya inaugurates Bengaluru Heritage Fest

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Onus is on all of us to protect the environment of Bengaluru, the garden city with the best climate in the country, said MP Tejasvi Surya. "Bengaluru is a city of pride, with a balance of all types of weather, including wind, rain, and sunshine. It's our responsibility to preserve a clean environment for posterity," he said. MLAs Udaya Garudachar and TA Saravana, retired IPS officer Bhaskar Rao, Karnataka Cancer Society president Dr CA Kishore, Garuda Foundation president Medini Garudachar, BNM Institute of Technology president Narayana Rao Mane were present. Many programmes, including running, yoga demonstration, Mallakamba and cycling were held involving thousands of students.

SIR: '10% of voters on 2025 rolls yet to be mapped'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
With less than a week to go before enumeration forms are printed for Karnataka's electorate of 5.5 crore, the Election Commission is yet to map about 10% or 52.4 lakh voters on the 2025 electoral rolls. V Anbukumar, Chief Electoral Officer saidl the table-top exercise will continue until publication of draft electoral rolls. Regardless of mapping status, all voters on the 2025 electoral rolls will receive enumeration forms. They will have to fill these out and submit them when enumerators visit their houses, he said. The least-mapped districts remain BBMP South (69.9%), BBMP Central (70.3%), BBMP North (71.9%), and BBMP Urban (79.9%). The numbers have been driven by progeny mapping exceeding 100%, relatives of voters in the 2002 electoral rolls who were either too young to vote then or had been left out.

GBA moots floodable landscapes in disused lakes

GBA to develop floodable landscapes in 19 disused lakes and parks, using bioswales to store runoff for up to 48 hours.

URBAN FLOODING

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Byataguntepalya in Northeast Bengaluru, Saneguruvanahalli in West Bengaluru, and Nandi Shettappa in South of the city are names most Bengaluru residents are unlikely to recognise today. These were once lakes that disappeared under layouts, parks, and other development works.

Under the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) Climate Action Cell initiative, 19 disused lakes across the city have been identified for intervention. Of these, eight have been completely encroached upon or have been diverted for layouts, stadiums, and parks, while some land is still available in the other lakes.

Floodable landscapes are areas designed to temporarily store rainwater during heavy rainfall and release it gradually after the rain subsides. Apart from lakes, other prominent flooding points have been identified for the project.

The Silver Jubilee Park near KR Market is one such spot. As per officials, around 2 acres within the park will be developed as a floodable landscape capable of holding excess rainwater for up to 48 hours. They stressed that the park's existing use will remain unchanged and that the designated area would be unavailable only for short periods during heavy rainfall.

The concept also includes the use of bioswales, which are shallow landscaped channels designed to redirect stormwater and slow its flow.

J Nithya, GBA's Executive Engineer currently with the Climate Action Cell, said, "By increasing the time taken for run-off to move through the drainage system, bioswales allow more water to infiltrate the ground and reduce the risk of flooding. Such interventions can be implemented even in lakes that have already been converted into parks,"

A senior GBA official involved in the project said the approach draws inspiration from traditional water-management practices that have existed in the region for centuries.

"These are nothing but modern terminologies for ancient practices of storing run-off rainwater in agricultural ponds," he said. The initiative gained momentum when the World Bank team mandated nature-based solutions as a key disbursement-linked indicator under its urban resilience programmes, he added. The initiative comes as the city continues to experience frequent waterlogging episodes during periods of intense rainfall.

Rapid urbanisation, shrinking natural drainage systems and the loss of wetlands have reduced Bengaluru's capacity to manage stormwater effectively, placing increasing pressure on roads, neighbourhoods and civic infrastructure.

> The initiative will be implemented over the next two years. The specifics on costs are still being estimated. We are confident of receiving funding for the project.
> **-Maheshwar Rao, GBA Chief Commissioner**

Floodable landscapes are designed to temporarily store and slow down rainwater during heavy downpours before gradually releasing or absorbing it.

As Bengaluru seeks solutions to its recurring flood challenges, the move towards floodable landscapes signals a broader evolution in urban planning. Rather than treating water solely as a problem to be removed, the city is increasingly exploring ways to accommodate and manage it through ecological design. If executed effectively, the approach could provide a blueprint for climate-adaptive urban development in rapidly growing cities across India.

Key details of initiative

- **DISUSED LAKES & THEIR PRESENT CONDITIONS:** Of the 19 disused lakes under GBA corporations; 8 have been converted into layouts and housing projects; 5 have become playgrounds, parks, and stadiums; 6 contain encroachments, while some still have vacant land with restoration potential.
- **TARGET AREAS:** The GBA has identified 19 disused lakes across Greater Bengaluru's five corporations for intervention, including specific sites like Lingarajapuram, Dyataguntepalya, Chikkalsandra, and Ittamadu.
- **SITE SELECTION:** Many of these historical catchment zones have been heavily encroached upon or converted into layouts, parks, and stadiums. This initiative seeks to utilize the remaining vacant lands within these zones as nature-based sponges.
- **PROJECT GOALS:** Rather than relying solely on concrete drains, these spaces are designed to absorb run-off, manage water safely, and act as recreational community parks during dry periods.

Broader flood resilience efforts

- **BUDGET ALLOCATIONS:** The floodable landscape project is tied into a broader Rs 28-cr climate action plan launched by the GBA, which focuses on urban greening and ecological restoration.
- **WORLD BANK FUNDING:** The city is also backed by the Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP), an initiative heavily funded by the World Bank to rebuild storm-water drains (SWDs) and mitigate climate risks.
- **CITIZEN AND RESEARCH INVOLVEMENT:** Independent organizations like the Bengaluru Sustainability Forum are running mapping initiatives, such as "Stormwater & the City," to allow residents to audit flooding issues locally.

Back to future: Mechanical, civil students land jobs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Several colleges have witnessed an increase in the number of companies hiring from core branches for students graduating in 2025-26. Several colleges have been able to place almost 100% of their students.

As per University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) placement officer Dileep Kumar, all the civil students of the university were got placements and they are hoping the same with the mechanical stream by the end of the season.

"The number of companies coming in is better than in the past five years," he said.

The reason for the high percentage of placement could also be because of the lower number of students when compared to other streams. Many colleges have shut down the core branches; in some others, the intake has been reduced to a small cohort of students. With this, in the campuses that have students in these branches, the demand is high for them, not-

This placement season, mechanical and civil students are back in demand in engineering colleges, with many institutions reporting renewed interest in hiring students from core branches.

ed KN Subramanya, Principal of RV College of Engineering.

Ramaiah Institute of Technology Dean (Training and Placements) K Sreenivasa Ramanujam said that there is at least a 20% increase in the number of companies coming for mechanical and civil students, including companies working with drones and electric vehicles.

"We were able to attract around 60 companies. There are more discussions happening with companies working with drones and EV-related vehicles. Yet another related branch called industrial engineering and management IEM is also doing well this time. While 51-53 of the 60 students have been placed so far, the others are also likely to find placement in the next two months," he said.

According to the PES University, the pattern is how internships are getting converted to job offers. Either students have been placed or have internships. The trend this time was to get internship offers and that getting converted, said KS Sridhar, placement head.

As per the Cambridge Institute of Technology all mechanical students were placed while civil engineering is also nearing 100% placement. While it was picking up last year too, this year has been really good." In terms of admissions to the first year, there's a demand for management seats in civil, mechanical and electrical programmes this year," said Principal BV Ravi Shankar.

Curtains down on Janapadaru Rangayana Drama Fest

CH NEWS,BENGALURU

As part of the two-day Janapadaru Rangayana Drama Festival organized by Janapadaru at the Cultural Forum, Girish Karnad's Agni and Male play was presented by Salyana Umesh Narayana under the direction of Mysore Rangayana.

On the second day, Shivamogga Rangayana presented Boluvaru Mahamad Kunhi's Swarthi Ota play was performed under the direction of Nataraj Honnavalli. Both these three-hour long plays were watched by a packed audience in the theater on both days.

Speaking on the occasion, President of Janapadaru Venkaramanappa (Katamnallur Papanna) said that the plays of our country's proud Rangayanas are very rich in terms of storytelling and technicality.

The audience of Janapadaru is eagerly waiting to watch such plays and a large number of audience expressed their happiness by watching the plays on both days.

Janapadaru Secretary Siddeshwar Nanasumane, M Suresh, Venkatachalapathy, HR Mamatha, K Muniraju Bidarena Agrahara, Krishna, Suresh, Shivakumar Katamnallur, Nitin, Madhusudhan Nayaka, Charan, Ranjith, Nagesh Bodhanhosahalli, Shyamala, Mahesh and others were present.

On this occasion the artistes were honoured.

Betting addict man kills home guard wife

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A shocking incident took place under the jurisdiction of Mahadevapura police station where a man with online betting addiction stabbed his wife to death in front of their kids.

Manjula (32), who worked as a home guard at Mahadevapura police station, was murdered. Pradeep, the accused who murdered his wife, has been arrested by Mahadevapura police station.

Pradeep and Manjula were married 15 years ago. But Pradeep is said to have recently become addicted to betting on online apps. Due to this, the family was facing financial difficulties. It is said that Pradeep was always suspicious of his wife for not being in debt.

Unable to bear the mental and physical abuse of her husband, Manjula lived separately with her children in a house near Pushpanjali Theater. Pradeep, who had come to Manjula's house around 9 pm on Sunday, pretended to apologize for the mistake he had made. Finally, he said, I will hold your leg, it was a mistake, come home, and then he attacked Manjula with a knife he had hidden inside his jerkin. Police said that he stabbed Manjula more than 10 times with a knife and brutally murdered her in front of their two children.

Accused Pradeep is said to have made a video before the murder. He is said to have said in the video, my wife and children came out on the streets due to my gambling addiction. My wife was ruined by my mother-in-law and my sister-in-law. I will die, my wife will die too. After killing his wife, he attempted suicide by cutting his hand with a knife.

Samhita students awarded

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Students of Samhita English School in Kurubarahalli, JC Nagar, who passed SSLC with the highest ranks, were felicitated by the Bhairavarag Musical Academy team on the school premises. 17 students of the state curriculum department who passed with more than 85 percent marks were awarded with plaques.

General Manager of the school Dr Rashmirao said that it is very important for today's children to lead a self-respecting life in the future.

Therefore, in our school, along with education, the teachers of our institution have put in a lot of effort to guide the students in extra-curricular activities like yoga, karate, etc. She said that this achievement was possible with the cooperation of the management board. Bhairavarag President S Sujatha said that mostly the children of middle class and poor wage laborers study at Samhita English School, so the children here and their parents are taught music and singing free of cost in our institution. Such a school He said that it was a pleasure to select and reward the students from the organization.

Dr BA Kalashankar, Managing Director of Engrave Minds, spoke and said that along with education, the school also teaches culture. He said that the children have worked to bring respect to their parents and every student should receive an award in the next academic year.

Principal K Vijaya, Dr Padmanabhan, Venkateshamurthy, Jagadishkumar, Nithyashankar, Uma, Renuka, teachers, parents, and students were present on the occasion.

Bank accounts cannot be fully frozen beyond direction of investigators: HC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The money in a customer's bank account is their property. It is subject to legal restrictions and the freezing of a bank account will have serious consequences, the High Court has directed the bank to freeze only the amount indicated by the investigators in cyber crime allegations and allow them to use the remaining money.

Hearing a petition filed by Madhu, a resident of JP Nagar, a single-member bench headed by Justice Suraj Govindaraj has strictly instructed banks not to freeze the entire accounts of their customers.

The relationship between the bank and the customer is based on trust. The amount in the customer's account will become the property of the account holder and will be subject to legal restrictions. If the bank account is closed, it will hinder the account holder from managing his daily expenses, responsibilities, and conducting business transactions. Also, a situation will arise where he will not be able to get his own money. Therefore, the investigating officers regarding the closure of the bank should follow the directions. Also, they cannot go beyond the directions of the authorities. Only then can unnecessary inconvenience and difficulties be avoided, the bench said.

The entire account cannot be frozen on the assumption that there is a possibility that the remaining funds in the account of a customer who has been complained about by the investigating officers may also be frozen. A balance must be maintained between the need for investigation and the rights of the account holder. The bench has pointed out that the bank officials should act only on the directions of the investigating officers.

Therefore, the police should impose a restriction on only the amount that has been suggested to be frozen and the remaining money should be allowed to be used. It has been ordered that only Rs 25,000 be reserved in the applicant's account and action should be taken within 4 days to use the remaining money and the salary received.

PUNISHMENT FOR INNOCENT

'Many POCSO cases filed without determining survivors' age'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

While sexual harassment cases against minors are often attended with great seriousness, allegations in certain cases turn out to be baseless due to a lack of a proper age determination process, said Karnataka High Court Judge G Basavaraja.

Addressing members of the Surgical Society of Bangalore, he said, in many POCSO cases I have come across in appeals and also as a Sessions Judge, I have found that the patient, who came for the delivery and at the time of giving history, stated that her age

was 17 years. Immediately, Doctors informed Police and the Child Development Officer.

He said that on receiving information from the medical practitioner, a case gets registered against the accused under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, resulting in a minimum sentence of 20 years. He warned the surgeons that, without determining the age scientifically, it is not appropriate to inform police.

Justice Basavaraja's statement comes at a time when Karnataka reported the fourth-highest 3,278 POCSO cases in a year, according to the National Crime Records Bureau 2024 report. Of 1,145 POCSO survivors in the state, 1,041 belong to the age category of 12-16.Section 94 of the Juvenile Justice Act contemplates that the age of the survivor has to be proved by the prosecution.

If the survivor or the parents or guardians have produced a birth certificate or SSLC certificate, then we can write the age accordingly. But in many cases, there is no document on the date of birth, Justice Basavaraja said. He clarified that while an offence is committed regardless of consent if the survivor is a minor, the same does not apply once she has attained majority.

Consequently, if the sexual act is consensual after majority, it does not fall under the definition of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code.The judge pointed out, recently, I have acquitted four to five people in cases in which, without ascertaining the age of the victim, police and the concerned medical officer have intimated the CDPO and police. Citing one such recent case, Justice Basavaraja revealed that the man was falsely convicted.

he Apex Court has held in many decisions that in POCSO cases, it is the duty of the prosecution to prove that as on the date of commission of events, the prosecution has to prove that the victim was a child, through an ossification test, he explained.

QUICK READ

Applications Open for Nekara Samman Yojana scheme

CHITRADURGA

Applications invited for Nekara Samman Yojana for 2026-27. Handloom and Textiles Department offers 5000 rupees yearly assistance to eligible handloom and power-loom weavers in Chitradurga district. Last date for application submission is July 20. Weavers currently active in the profession and registered under PMJJBY and PMSBY can apply. Those who left profession or moved away are not eligible. Eligible applicants must submit Aadhaar card, ration card, Weaver Samman ID or Pehchan card, bank passbook linked with Aadhaar and weaving identity proof. Applications can be submitted through cooperative societies or Handloom Development office in Chitradurga or directly to deputy director office.

Apprentice and job fair scheduled on June 18

MANDYA

The Industrial Training and Employment Department has organized an apprentice and job fair on June 18 at 10 am at the District Government Industrial Training Institute. ITI trainees can take part in the event and meet employers for opportunities.

For more information ITI trainees can contact 08232297054. The Principal of Mandya Public Sector Institute Grade-1 said in a statement that the fair aims to provide skill-based employment opportunities and guidance for students. Participants are encouraged to attend and make use of this opportunity for better career growth and placement support available locally. Further details available.

Taluk Panchayat KDP meeting postponed

CHITRADURGA

The first quarterly KDP meeting scheduled for June 16 at 11 am at the Chitradurga Taluk Panchayat Hall has been postponed. The meeting was to be held under the chairmanship of MLA K C Veerendra Pappi. Officials said the decision was taken after instructions from legislators due to the ongoing assembly session. The Chitradurga Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer confirmed the postponement. New date will be announced later.

Officials have asked members and departments to wait for further notice and continue routine work without interruption. The meeting was important for reviewing development programmes and public service progress in the taluk area.

MLA K C Veerendra Pappi launches development works

Niranjan Murthy welcomed inclusive development without discrimination, while leaders praised MLA for rural growth and close coordination with workers

CHITRADURGA

MLA K C Veerendra Pappi said that he carries the responsibility of ensuring welfare for all castes and communities while speaking at a land worship ceremony for various development works in Singapore, Betta Nagenahalli, and Vidyanagar villages under Chitradurga constituency. The total value of the development projects is Rs 2 crore 85 lakh.

He said the government is carrying out development works in every village by understanding local needs and basic facilities required by the people. The MLA added that his focus has been on improving infrastructure such as CC roads, drainage systems, drinking water supply, schools, and health centres across the constituency.

Speaking at the foundation laying ceremony held on Monday, he said public service should continue with the awareness that political power is temporary. He stated that during his tenure he has tried to carry out works that benefit people directly and bring long term improvement to village life.

He further said that several development projects have already been completed in the constituency and more works are in progress. He mentioned that lake filling works under irrigation projects will support farmers and improve water availability in coming years. He also said that the long pending Upper Bhadra project will be completed soon, which will greatly benefit the farming community in the region.

Former Gram Panchayat President Niranjan Murthy said it is a positive development that leaders are focusing on inclusive growth without caste or community discrimination. He appreciated the MLA's efforts in bringing development works to rural areas. Local leader Kallesh also praised the MLA for maintaining close coordination with workers and ensuring continuous development activities across the constituency.

As part of the programme, Bhoomi Puja was performed for multiple road development works. These include the Nagenahalli to Benakanahalli road project worth Rs 95 lakh, the Singapore to Danada Oni road project worth Rs 95 lakh, and Vidyanagar road development in Chitradurga city also worth Rs 95 lakh.

Officials, engineers, local leaders, and villagers attended the event and participated in the ceremony. Residents expressed hope that these projects will improve transport facilities, ease daily travel, and support overall village development.

Deputy Commissioner calls for strict pollution control

CESCOM chairman A.B. Ramesh Bandisiddegowda directed officials to ensure safe drinking water, conduct regular quality tests, and prevent wastewater contamination during the rainy season

MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr Kumar has said that strict steps must be taken to stop industrial and sewage wastewater from entering the Cauvery River and contaminating drinking water sources.

He was speaking while chairing a meeting at the District Collector's Hall regarding prevention of direct discharge of wastewater from Mysuru city limits into the Cauvery River and nearby canals.

He said wastewater from industries in Mysuru is flowing through canals in Kalasthavady village and Kesare village and finally mixing with the Cauvery near the intake well that supplies drinking water to Srirangapatna. He stressed urgent action to stop this pollution.

MLA A B Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, chairman of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Limited, said authorities must ensure drinking water safety and regularly test water quality. He also instructed officials to prevent wastewater mixing during the rainy season.

Officials including Additional SP Thimmaiah, Tahsildar Chetana Yadav, and other department officers were present in the meeting and discussed necessary measures.

The meeting concluded with a call for coordinated action to protect the Cauvery River and ensure safe drinking water for residents in the region.Officials said that protecting the Cauvery River is essential for public health and long term water security in Mandya district. They noted that coordination between civic bodies, pollution control authorities and local administration is necessary to stop untreated waste from entering water bodies. Awareness among industries and citizens was also highlighted as an important step. The meeting emphasized that strict monitoring, regular inspections and timely action will help prevent contamination and safeguard drinking water supply for future generations in the region.

Mandali directed officials to improve public services, ensure polite electricity staff behavior, and maintain cleanliness and facilities at bus stands

Timely delivery of guarantee schemes urged in Gadag

GADAG

Implementation of government guarantee schemes offers a major opportunity to serve the poor and strengthen their financial condition, said Ashok Mandali, Chairman of the Gadag Taluk Level Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority. He stressed that benefits under these schemes must reach eligible beneficiaries on time without delay.

He was speaking while presiding over a progress review meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Gadag on Monday. He said the guarantee programmes are designed to support the poor and their effective implementation should be treated as a responsibility with honesty and dedication. He added that achieving 100 percent progress in all schemes should be the main goal of officials.

Mandali also instructed officials to ensure that public service delivery remains smooth in all departments. He said electricity department staff should behave politely with the public when handling complaints related to power supply or damaged poles. He also directed authorities to maintain cleanliness at bus stands in Gadag taluk and ensure drinking water, seating arrangements, and toilet facilities for passengers, especially women and senior citizens.

He highlighted the importance of the Grihalakshmi scheme in empowering women financially and said no eligible beneficiary should be left out. He warned against misuse of funds and instructed officials to prevent payments being credited to accounts of deceased persons. He directed Anganwadi workers to conduct door to door surveys and verify beneficiary details and submit reports to banks and departments.

Committee member Krishnagouda H Patil suggested wide publicity for the Yuvanidhi scheme through banners in Panchayat limits and educational institutions. He also stressed awareness about Annabhagya scheme and urged officials to ensure that no eligible youth or family is left out of government benefits.

Officials presented progress reports on various schemes during the meeting. Under Yuvanidhi, 2,748 candidates have registered, with 1,188 already receiving DBT payments. Under Grihalakshmi, 83,593 applications were registered and 80,265 payments completed, showing over 96 percent progress.

Under Shakti scheme, significant revenue has been recorded from women passengers in Gadag and Betageri units between 2023 and 2026. Under Annabhagya, thousands of quintals of rice have been distributed to AAY and BPL ration card holders in both rural and urban areas.

Officials said Griha Jyoti scheme registrations have reached over 99 percent coverage in both Gadag city and rural divisions.

Srinivaspur farmers demand support price for mangoes

SRINIVASAPUR

Mango growers in Srinivaspur staged a strong protest on Monday by blocking a state highway near Rojarahalli Gate, demanding immediate government intervention after a sharp fall in mango prices affected their earnings. Farmers also submitted a memorandum to Tahsildar G N Sudheendra urging both Central and State governments to take urgent steps to protect mango cultivators.

The protesting farmers demanded a minimum support price of ₹10 per kilogram for mangoes and called for an annual allocation of ₹10,000 crore in government budgets for the welfare of mango growers. They also sought the establishment of mango processing units in every taluk to prevent distress sales during price crashes.Farmers' Association State leader Bangawadi Nagaraj Gowda criticised the government and horticulture officials for not addressing the ongoing crisis faced by mango growers, despite organizing mango festivals in Bengaluru every year.

Gadag plans grand International Yoga Day celebration

GADAG

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar said that preparations should be made to celebrate the 12th International Yoga Day on June 21 in a simple and meaningful way at K. H. Patil Stadium in Gadag. He spoke while presiding over a preparatory meeting held by the AYUSH Department at the District Collector's Office Hall on Monday.

He said everyone should adopt yoga in daily life to protect physical and mental health in today's stressful lifestyle. Yoga should be made mandatory in schools and colleges, and officials were instructed to make it a regular practice among students to improve concentration and memory, not just a one-day event.

He added that yoga institutions should spread awareness about health and encourage regular practice among the public. The programme is open to all including senior citizens, students and yoga enthusiasts without any age limit.

The District Collector directed officials to ensure clean drinking water, toilets and other basic facilities at the venue. District AYUSH Officer Dr Zubeda Begam said the inauguration will be held on June 21 at 6.15 am at K. H. Patil Stadium, followed by yoga practice at 7 am.

Ending Child Labour Through Education

SHARON FAUSTINA
BENGALURU

Child labour is the practice of employing children in work that interferes with their education, health, or development. It is a serious social issue that often results from poverty, lack of access to schooling and economic hardship. Governments and organizations around the world work to eliminate child labour and ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe environment.

Child labour remains one of India's most pressing social challenges, but according to child rights activist Nagasimha G. Rao, the problem stems more from societal attitudes than from poverty alone. Rao stressed that every child who is out of school is a potential child labourer. He explained that while child labour was not always viewed as a violation of children's rights, global awareness increased after the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) came into force in 1989. India subsequently strengthened legal protections through constitutional provisions and laws such as the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and the Juvenile Justice Act.

Rao challenged the common belief that poverty is the primary cause of child labour. Instead, he argued that society's failure to prioritize children's education and development is the real issue. "Today's child is tomorrow's citizen," he said, emphasizing that children are the wealth of the nation and deserve protection, education and opportunities for participation. He also highlighted shortcomings within the education system. According to him, factors such as corporal punishment, inadequate infrastructure, lack of child-friendly environments and poor promotion of government schools contribute to children dropping out of school. He noted that learning, not merely enrolment, is a fundamental right of every child.

Rao said legislation alone cannot eliminate child labour without community support and public awareness. He warned that employers often exploit children because they are less likely to demand fair wages or question working conditions. Calling for greater youth involvement, Rao encouraged students and youth to organize awareness campaigns and report cases of child labour through child helpline 1098. He further urged government departments, law enforcement agencies, educators, and the media to work together through coordinated action plans and increased funding for child protection and rehabilitation programs.

"Employing a child is the murder of childhood," Rao concluded, calling for collective action to ensure every child enjoys a safe and educated future.

FOLKLORE SHAPES CULTURAL HISTORY IDENTITY: NARASIMHA MURTHY

PAVAGADA

Folklore plays a key role in building cultural history, said Taluk Kannada Sahitya Parishad President Katta Narasimha Murthy at a book launch event held at Sri Tipperudraswamy Temple in Vadankallu village. The programme marked the release of retired RTO officer B. Thippeswamy's debut book titled Sirivetta Nidugallu.

He said history is not only about kings and rulers but also about the lives of common people. He appreciated the author for using local stories and folk sources to rebuild regional history in a meaningful way. He noted that the book clearly presents the Nidugalli royal court, social conditions of the past, administrative systems, and cultural traditions. He added that the story of Veera Gandaiah, who died during a village festival, gives the work the strength of a historical novel.

Leader Thimmareddy spoke about changes in society and said traditional village roles have lost relevance in the modern democratic system. He also made remarks on social responsibility and unity in community life.

Dr H K Narasimha Murthy said Indian culture is deeply rooted in folk traditions and rural practices. He said these traditions are essential for understanding cultural identity and should not be ignored. He appreciated the book for highlighting rural cultural history and the lives of weaker sections of society.

Author B Thippeswamy said the inspiration for the book came from childhood memories, local stories, and historical references connected to Nidugallu. He said support from local people helped him bring out the work in a meaningful way. He expressed happiness that respected teachers, spiritual leaders, writers, and community members attended the programme and encouraged him.

Urabba Film Set for Statewide Release June 19

MAGADI

The Kannada film Urabba, which blends village traditions, devotion, and folk art, is set for release in more than 100 theatres across Karnataka on June 19, said producer Naresh Gowda Ujjani. The announcement was made during a poster release event held at Mangalore Garden on the outskirts of Magadi town on Monday.

The producer said that more than 100 hotel owners in Bengaluru have come together to support the promotional activities of the film, showing strong community backing. He added that the story is deeply connected to Ujjani Chowdeshwari Devi, a deity worshipped for over 800 years across communities, and described the goddess as the heart of the film.

He also said that local villagers of Ujjani supported the shooting team by providing free accommodation and food during production. The film features important cultural events such as Ujjani Mahatme, Magadi Brahmarathotsava, and traditional village fairs, which have been captured on screen in detail.

The film includes eight folk songs, and one of the songs has been sung by Mahesh. A special audio release was also held in Ujjani village. The makers said that although there was interest in releasing the film in other languages, they have chosen to release it proudly in Kannada.

Director H Vasu said that making a film dedicated to Chowdeshwari Devi has been a spiritual experience and added that many scenes were shot during real village festival celebrations. He said the film carries strong devotional value and will appeal to audiences.

QUICK READ

Students seek water park in Chitradurga city

Chitradurga

Puppis Student Wing activists requested officials to build a water amusement park near Chitradurga city under the Bhadra Upper River Project. The request was submitted to Assistant Executive Engineer Kiran Kumar. They said the park will promote tourism, create jobs for youth and support local business growth. They also proposed using suitable land under the project and sought a grant of five crore rupees. President Chinnu and Secretary Salim said the park will improve facilities and attract visitors from across Karnataka.

Udupi issues public notices on welfare updates

Udupi

District administration has invited online applications for scholarship schemes for disabled students through the SSP portal for the current year. Students from class one to SSLC and from PUC to postgraduate level can apply using the official website links and required documents. For more information contact the District office at Manipal or helpline numbers provided in the official notification. Authorities also announced extension of application deadline for legal scholarship for minority law graduates till July 30. A missing elderly patient admitted in district hospital remains in critical condition and relatives are requested to contact officials immediately.

Organic farming needed for toxic free food

CHITRADURGA

Progressive organic farmer Raghav from Ikanthika Farm in Davangere said that following Japanese natural farming pioneer Masanobu Fukuoka methods can help produce high quality food without toxic chemicals and with minimal management. He was speaking at a one day organic farming training workshop held at Rishi Gurukulam Ashram in Rangapur Ramgiri Hobli Holalkere taluk organized with support of agricultural training centre and partner organizations under national agricultural development scheme.He explained four principles no tillage no fertilizers no pesticides no weeding and said farmers can achieve self reliance using their own land and reduce costs and government is encouraging organic farming.Assistant director R Rajnikanth said excessive chemical use is destroying soil microorganisms reducing fertility and harming human health and urged farmers to adopt organic lifestyle to protect environment.

CT Ravi seeks CBI probe into Dharmasthala conspiracy

CT Ravi called for fair investigation, questioning funding and networks behind alleged campaign against a religious institution

BENGALURU

Legislative Council member C T Ravi has urged Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to hand over the investigation into an alleged conspiracy against Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala and its Dharmadhikari Dr D Veerendra Heggade to the Central Bureau of Investigation. He said only a central agency probe can bring out the complete truth.

In his letter, CT Ravi said the recent developments related to Dharmasthala have created concern among millions of devotees. He described Dharmasthala as a major centre of faith and social service, known for its contributions in education, health care, and food distribution. He said repeated allegations and controversies around the institution have raised serious doubts in public minds.

He pointed out that a petition filed before the High Court has added a new dimension to the issue, with media reports mentioning several individuals, including public figures and social media users. He also referred to claims of a large scale organised conspiracy allegedly involving significant financial resources.

CT Ravi said that whether the allegations are true or false must be decided through a fair investigation. However, he questioned the source of funds and the network behind what he described as a massive campaign against a respected religious institution. He said it is important to find out whether the actions were individual or part of a larger organised effort.

He stated that he had earlier suspected a systematic attempt to target Dharmasthala, and recent reports have strengthened those concerns. He asked whether there was any broader strategy to create distrust against Hindu religious centres and institutions, and whether external funding or outside influence was involved.

The BJP leader also referred to allegations of a possible ₹200 crore conspiracy and said that if such claims are true, the public has the right to know the details. He demanded a full investigation into the money trail, digital campaign activity, and individuals involved in the alleged network.

He further said that since the matter appears to extend beyond Karnataka, a state level investigation may not be sufficient. He argued that only a central agency like the CBI can ensure a detailed and impartial probe.

CT Ravi concluded by urging the government to take the matter seriously and recommend a CBI investigation immediately, stating that the issue concerns the faith and trust of millions of devotees across the country.

District prepares mass Yoga Day celebration event

CHIKKABALLAPURA

The district administration has started preparations for the 12th International Yoga Day, which will be held on June 21 at Sir M. Visvesvaraya District Stadium. District Magistrate G. Prabhu chaired a review meeting at the District Magistrate Court Hall and instructed officials to complete all arrangements in an orderly manner.

He said the yoga day will be celebrated meaningfully this year with a mass yoga demonstration. He appealed to people's representatives, students, youth and the public to participate actively. He also directed all department staff to attend the program compulsorily and support its success.

The program will begin at 7 am on June 21.

Honnavar taluk sees new electoral restructuring plan

KARWAR

District authorities have invited objections regarding the draft notification on division of regional electoral constituencies for Kota and Hadikal Gram Panchayats in Honnavar taluk of Karwar district. The public can submit objections until June 22 by 5 pm. Officials said objections received after the deadline will not be considered under any circumstances.

According to the draft, Kota Gram Panchayat has four regional constituencies. Kota constituency covers Kota Majare, Kota, Aresulyakota, Tumbebilu, Sulibilu and Sampolli villages and has been allotted three member seats. Herali constituency includes Herali Majare, Herali village and Mundaramava area of Kuchchodi, and it has one member seat.

Hadikal Gram Panchayat has six regional constituencies. Dabboda constituency includes Dabboda Majare, Kerekuli and Turume villages and has one member seat. Goat constituency covers Balagattu, Madakigadde, Shigadi, Ammaru, Adukala and Kallanchu areas and has two member seats.

The Hadikal constituency includes the entire Hadikal village along with Yatnalli and Nesalaniru areas and has one member seat. Adkekuli constituency has one seat covering Adkekuli Majare. Ashikeri constituency includes Halalli, Muragoli and Ashikeri villages and has one member seat.

Vijayendra demands white paper on Karnataka finances

SHIVAMOGGA

BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra has urged the Karnataka government to release a white paper detailing the state's financial condition, alleging a lack of transparency in fiscal management. He made the demand while addressing party workers and media in Shivamogga.

Vijayendra stated that the government must provide a clear and detailed account of the state's economic situation, including revenue collection, expenditure patterns, and outstanding liabilities. He argued that such transparency is necessary for public accountability and to help citizens understand the real financial health of the state.

He accused the government of failing to disclose accurate information regarding state finances and claimed that contradictory statements have created confusion among the public. According to him, a white paper would help clarify the actual fiscal position and ensure responsible governance.

The BJP leader also questioned the state's borrowing levels and rising debt burden, demanding clarity on how funds are being utilized across various welfare schemes and development projects. He said that the government should explain whether borrowed funds are being effectively used for infrastructure development and public welfare or whether they are leading to increased financial stress.

The BJP leader questioned rising state debt and demanded clarity on whether borrowed funds are effectively used for welfare and infrastructure or causing financial stress

Vijayendra further alleged that the financial management of the state has weakened, leading to delays in development works and difficulties in implementing welfare programmes. He insisted that the public has the right to know how taxpayer money is being spent.

He also called for greater accountability in financial planning and urged the government to present a comprehensive report in the form of a white paper in the legislative assembly.

According to him, such a move would strengthen democratic transparency and allow opposition parties and citizens to evaluate the government's performance based on facts.The statement comes amid ongoing political debate over Karnataka's fiscal policies and welfare commitments, with opposition parties repeatedly raising concerns about the state's economic stability and expenditure priorities

MLA said priority is improving roads, drinking water, infrastructure, and rural connectivity through continuous development across the constituency

Bidar South sees major infrastructure development push

BIDAR

MLA Dr Shailendra Beldale launched road asphalting works worth two crore fifty six lakh rupees in Bidar South constituency for overall development of rural areas. Earlier one crore rupees road asphalting work was completed and now remaining stretch from Andoor village to Kapalapur and Athiwala has been taken up with clear instructions to contractors for quality and timely completion.

In Kapalapur village several development works were also started including road from main road to APJ Abdul Kalam hostel at cost of sixty five lakh rupees CC roads in SC lanes and Honnikeri Tanda and installation of high mast lights.

MLA said providing good roads drinking water and infrastructure is priority and rural connectivity and public convenience are being improved through continuous development works across the constituency.

Village leader Hanamantharao Mailare appreciated the development works and said people are benefiting from roads water and infrastructure projects implemented under MLA leadership in Bidar South constituency. He urged continued focus on public welfare and faster completion of all ongoing works for better living standards in rural areas of the region.

Officials and media coordinator Nagesh Sidda said the development programme reflects the commitment of the government towards improving rural infrastructure in Bidar South constituency.

He added that roads, lighting and basic facilities will improve connectivity, safety and quality of life for residents. He also said all projects will be monitored closely to ensure transparency and timely completion for public benefit and strengthen development across villages in the region.

Koppal holds workshop on SIR voter revision

KOPPAL

Booth Level Agents were urged to ensure that every eligible voter receives the enumeration form during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists, said Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Dr Suresh B Itnal at an information workshop held in Koppal on Monday.

The workshop on SIR-2026 for Booth Level Agents was conducted at the auditorium hall of the Koppal District Administration Building. Dr Itnal said BLOs will be visiting every household and must ensure that no eligible voter is left out during the enumeration process.

He explained that India has conducted seven Special Intensive Revisions so far and Karnataka last carried out such a revision in 2002. He said voters listed in 2002 are being considered as reference, while the 2025 voter list is being digitally matched with the earlier records for accuracy.

The Deputy Commissioner said the role of Booth Level Agents and Booth Level Officers is very important in maintaining an error free voter list. He added that the revision process is fully digital this time, reducing the chances of duplicate or incorrect entries in the electoral roll.

Dr Itnal said enumeration forms will be distributed to all voters listed in the 2025 voter roll. Once filled, these forms will be collected by BLOs and processed through a mobile application for verification and updates.

He instructed BLOs and BLAs to work closely together to ensure that no eligible voter is left out during house visits. He also asked political party representatives appointed as BLAs to actively support the mapping process and help identify pending voters.

Koppal MLA K Raghavendra Hitnal said that Booth Level Agents have already been appointed by political parties and they should be provided with proper BLO details for smooth coordination.

He stressed that the process must be handled responsibly to ensure accurate voter records.

MLA launches road upgrade near Chilimbi temple project

MANGALURU

Full-scale road improvement works have commenced near the gateway of Chilimbi Sri Malaraya Daivasthana in the Derebail Southwest Ward under the Mangaluru City Corporation, following the allocation of a ₹50 lakh special grant aimed at strengthening local infrastructure and easing commuter movement in the busy neighborhood.

The foundation stone for the project was laid in a ceremonial event attended by MLA Vedavyasa Kamath, who highlighted that the initiative responds to long-standing demands of residents for better roads, drainage, and overall urban connectivity in the area.

He urged residents to cooperate during the construction phase, noting that temporary inconvenience would be offset by long-term benefits once the upgraded road network is completed and opened for public use.

PUBLIC-POWER-STRUGGLE

Raichur protest against electricity privatization intensifies

SINDHANUR

A protest was held in Sindhanur, Raichur district, opposing the proposed privatization of electricity distribution networks currently operating under government control. The demonstration reflects growing concern among workers and residents over possible policy changes in the power sector.

Protesters expressed strong opposition to any move to transfer government-owned electricity distribution centres to private players. They argued that such a step could negatively impact affordability, reliability, and job security in the sector. Participants raised slogans and demanded that the state government withdraw any plans related to privatization of electricity services.

The agitation comes amid ongoing discussions in Karnataka regarding reforms in the power distribution sector, including proposals that could allow private companies to enter or expand operations in distribution networks. Similar concerns have been raised in other parts of the state, where labour unions and civic groups have warned against increased privatization in essential services.

In Raichur region, which already plays a significant role in Karnataka's power generation through major thermal plants, residents and workers have consistently voiced concerns about energy policy decisions affecting local employment and public access to services.

Union representatives and activists participating in the protest stated that electricity is a basic necessity and should remain under public control to ensure equitable access. They warned that privatization could lead to increased tariffs and reduced protections for consumers.Authorities are yet to issue a formal response to the latest protest, but the issue is expected to remain a key point of debate as discussions on energy sector reforms continue in the state.

MLA launches DUDMI program for coastal tourism jobs

MALPE

Local leaders and residents gathered at a hotel in Malpe for the official rollout of DUDMI, an ambitious community-focused tourism initiative aimed at creating sustainable livelihoods for coastal youth.

MLA Gururaj Gantihole presided over the launch under the Samruddha Byndoor banner emphasizing hands-on training that equips young people with skills for guiding tours hospitality services and eco-friendly ventures.

Participants many of them women eager to build independent careers engaged in interactive sessions that highlighted the untapped potential of Byndoor's scenic beaches heritage sites and natural landscapes.

Organizers collaborated closely with the state tourism department to ensure the initiative aligns with broader development goals incorporating traditional elements like ceremonial lamp lighting to mark the occasion.

ENSURE MUHARRAM OBSERVANCE PASSES OF PEACEFULLY: CM OMAR

The J&K CM directs departments to ensure smooth, safe and dignified Muharram observance across the Union territory.

SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess preparations for Muharram and directed all departments concerned to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the peaceful and smooth observance of the religious occasion across the Union Territory.

The meeting brought together Deputy Chief Minister, Cabinet ministers, legislators, senior government officials, and representatives of various Shia organizations. Participants discussed the measures required to facilitate religious gatherings and processions during the mourning period and shared suggestions to improve public services and infrastructure.

Emphasizing the significance of Muharram for the Shia community, Abdullah instructed departments to make all necessary arrangements well in advance. He stressed that devotees should be able to observe the occasion with dignity and without facing any inconvenience.

The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supply, adequate healthcare services, sanitation facilities, and effective traffic management. He also highlighted the need for efficient public service delivery throughout the period, particularly in areas expected to witness large gatherings and processions.

During the meeting, officials from various departments presented detailed reports on preparedness measures and outlined steps being taken to address logistical and administrative requirements. The review covered multiple sectors, including civic services, healthcare, transportation, and law enforcement.

Representatives of Shia organizations welcomed the opportunity to present their concerns and recommendations.

They highlighted specific issues requiring attention and proposed measures aimed at improving facilities for mourners participating in religious events.

The administration assured them that their suggestions would be considered while finalizing arrangements. Abdullah also instructed authorities to maintain close coordination among departments and establish prompt response mechanisms for addressing public grievances and service-related concerns. He emphasized that timely action and interdepartmental cooperation would be essential for ensuring a smooth observance.

Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar, marks the beginning of the Islamic New Year and holds deep religious significance for Muslims around the world. The period is particularly important for Shia Muslims, who commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain at Karbala in present-day Iraq.

According to the Islamic calendar, Muharram will begin on June 16 this year, marking the start of the year 1448 AH. The Day of Ashura, observed on the tenth day of Muharram, will fall on June 25.

QUICK READ

India's total exports reach $81.96 billion in May with 15.83% growth

New Delhi

India's total exports (merchandise and services) for May came at $81.96 billion, registering a growth of 15.83 per cent compared to the same month last year, Commerce Ministry data showed on Monday. Merchandise exports during May were $45.20 billion as compared to $38.30 billion in May 2025. The estimated value of services export for May is $36.76 billion, as compared to $32.46 billion in May 2025. According to the official data, the cumulative value of merchandise exports during the April-May period was $88.91 billion, as compared to $76.59 billion during April-May 2025-26, registering a positive growth of 16.09 per cent.

Harnessing tech for transparency, social inclusion: Delhi L-G

New Delhi

Delhi Lieutenant Governor T.S. Sandhu on Monday inaugurated a new Aadhaar Seva Kendra in West Delhi, highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra to harness technology to drive grassroots empowerment, transparency, and social inclusion. Inaugurating the new facility at Vikaspuri, Sandhu described it as another step for enhancing ease of living and encouraged parents to get their teenaged children's Aadhaar data updated at the new Aadhaar Seva Kendra. In a message on X, the Lieutenant Governor said, This seamless service delivery reflects our unwavering commitment to public welfare. We remain dedicated to building a responsive civic framework that empowers the people of Delhi and strengthens trust between citizens and governance.

India-Norway discuss bilateral ties, evolving global priorities

New Delhi

India and Norway on Monday held discussions on evolving global priorities and ways to strengthen bilateral ties.

The discussions were held during a meeting between Norway's Ambassador to India May-Elin Stener and Aparna Ray, the Joint Secretary for Policy Planning and Research at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Pleased to meet Aparna Ray Joint Secretary (Policy Planning and Research), MEA. We discussed evolving global priorities and ways to strengthen the multifaceted partnership between Norway and India. I look forward to continuing our close cooperation, the Norwegian Ambassador to India posted on X.

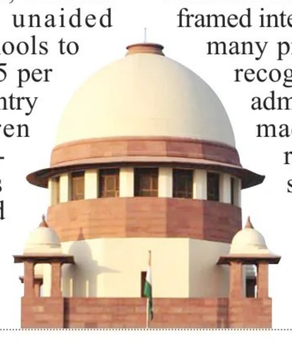
SC issues notice on PIL alleging failure to implement EWS quota in Punjab schools

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Punjab government on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) alleging continued non-implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, resulting in the denial of free education to children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana passed the order while hearing a petition filed by K.S. Raju Legal Trust through its representative, Dr Jagmohan Singh Raju.

During the hearing, the petitioner contended that several private schools in Punjab have failed to implement the mandate under Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act, which requires private unaided non-minority schools to reserve at least 25 per cent seats at the entry level for children from economically weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.



Referring to the government's response, the CJI observed that a counter affidavit confirmed admissions under the economically weaker sections (EWS) category in private schools.

However, the petitioner submitted that while at least 50,000 students ought to have been admitted under the EWS quota, information obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) Act showed that some schools had not admitted even a single child under the scheme for nearly 15 years.

At this, the CJI Kant-led Bench advised the petitioner to undertake a comprehensive study and gather data on the number of recognised private schools and admissions made under the RTE quota.

Conduct a study and find out how many schools have refused it. RTI has to be framed intelligently. See how many private schools are recognised, how many admissions have been made, the top court remarked while issuing notice.

The matter has been listed for further hearing on August 17.

Plaint against actor Prakash Raj over remarks on Ramayana

TIRUPATI

A criminal complaint has been filed against actor Prakash Raj in a court in Tirupati over alleged remarks concerning Hindu deities and the epic Ramayana that have sparked controversy and drawn criticism from religious and political groups.

The complaint was submitted on Monday before the court of the IV-Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class by G. Bhanuprakash Reddy, a Bharatiya Janata Party leader and member of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Trust Board.

According to the complaint, Prakash Raj allegedly made controversial remarks during the Kerala Literature Festival and at other public events. The complainant claimed that the actor stated that Lord Rama and Lakshmana travelled from North India to invade the South, which he allegedly equated with Lanka in the Ramayana narrative.

Bhanuprakash Reddy stated that he came across a video of the actor on social media on April 17 and found the statements to be highly offensive. In the complaint, he alleged that the remarks were derogatory, factually incorrect, inflammatory, and malicious in nature. He further claimed that the comments were widely circulated online and caused hurt and outrage among members of the Hindu community.

A BJP leader has sought legal action against actor Prakash Raj over remarks on Ramayana.

The complaint also alleges that the actor promoted the disputed Aryan-Dravidian theory in a manner that could encourage regional divisions and social discord. According to the complainant, the remarks undermined India's cultural and religious unity and deliberately insulted revered Hindu deities and scriptures.

Bhanuprakash Reddy argued that such statements amounted to an attack on the religious sentiments of a large section of society and could adversely affect public tranquillity and communal harmony. He maintained that the comments were made with the intention of provoking outrage among followers of the Hindu faith.

The complaint invokes provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, including Section 299, which deals with deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings by insulting religion or religious beliefs. It also cites Section 196, which pertains to promoting enmity between different groups on grounds such as religion, race, place of birth, or residence, and acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony.

The complainant has requested the court to examine the allegations, take cognisance of the matter, and initiate appropriate legal proceedings against the actor in accordance with the law.

India's urban unemployment rate dips to 6.4% in May

NEW DELHI

Overall unemployment rate (UR) for people above 15 years of age in urban areas declined to 6.4 per cent in May this year from 6.9 per cent in the same month last year while the female unemployment rate in urban areas declined to a year's low of 8.2 per cent during the month, according to figures released by the National Statistics Office on Monday.

The overall UR remained stable, while the rural UR maintained the same level of 5.1 per cent over the same period, the official statement said.

The overall labour force participation rate (LFPR), which is an indicator of the level of employment, was recorded as 54.4 per cent in May remained steady compared to 54.8 per cent in the same month last year 2025.

Similarly, the overall worker participation rate (WPR), which is another indicator of employment, remained stable at 51.4 per cent during the month, compared to 51.7 per cent in May last year.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by NSO, is the primary source of data on activity participation and employment and unemployment conditions of the population. The PLFS survey methodology has been modified from January, 2025 to provide monthly and quarterly estimates of labour force indicators for the country.

There was a decline in urban unemployment during the Jan-March quarter of the current year along with an increase in rural employment in both the secondary and tertiary sectors, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Statistics earlier.

Overall Unemployment Rate (UR) in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above exhibited a declining trend 6.6 per cent during the quarter January-March, 2026 compared to 6.7 per cent in the previous quarter.

Monthly results of PLFS are released in the form of Monthly Bulletins.

A road encroachment dispute turned violent in Madhya Pradesh, leaving police officer Indraj Singh seriously injured.

Police officer injured during violent protest in Sidhi

SIDHI

A long-running dispute over the alleged encroachment of a government pathway escalated into violence in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district on Monday, resulting in serious injuries to a police officer who was attempting to resolve a protest and restore normalcy in the area.

The incident took place in Patpara village, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Kamarji police station. Villagers had reportedly blocked a public road to protest against what they described as the illegal occupation of a government route. According to local residents, the matter had been pending before revenue authorities for an extended period, with repeated complaints failing to produce a satisfactory resolution.

As the demonstration intensified, Kamarji Station House Officer Indraj Singh arrived at the location along with a police team. The officers attempted to persuade protesters to remove the blockade and allow traffic movement to resume.

However, the situation rapidly deteriorated. Police officials alleged that a group of individuals attacked the officer during the confrontation. According to preliminary reports, Singh was struck with sharp-edged weapons, including an axe and a sickle, causing severe injuries to his head. The officer collapsed at the scene and was immediately transported to the District Hospital in Sidhi through the emergency Dial-112 service.

Following the attack, a large contingent of police and administrative officials rushed to the village. Vikas Kumar Anand led the administrative response, accompanied by personnel from five police stations.

Maharashtra Assembly monsoon session from June 22 to July 10

MUMBAI

The Business Advisory Committees of the Maharashtra Legislative Council and Assembly on Monday chalked out the schedule for the monsoon session of the state legislature, which will commence on June 22 and conclude on July 10. This was confirmed by the legislators from the ruling and opposition benches after the meetings took place in the Vidhan Bhavan.

The three-week session is expected to be a stormy affair, with a rejuvenated Opposition gearing up to corner the ruling alliance on a multitude of volatile issues, ranging from conditional farm loan waivers to alleged political engineering.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22112809
ಸಂ.ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/401/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.06.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು **KW-1 STD** ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	Electrification works to proposed class room secondary school at Doddalahalli, Kanakapura Taluk, Bengaluru South Dist. PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT33572	7.46
2	Construction of Government Primary School at Doddalahalli, Kanakapura Taluk, Bengaluru South Dist. (Electrification Work) PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT36073	5.23

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.06.2026 ರಿಂದ 23.06.2026 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.06.2026 ರಂದೆ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ).
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ-ಸಿ.ಪಿ/1157/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಪಿಎ/2026-27

ZILLA PANCHAYATH TUMKUR
Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Mahatma Gandhi District Stadium Tumkur
No.: ADYEandSD/TUM/03/2026-27 Date:09-06-2026

E-Tender Notification

For the year 2026-27, the Office of the Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Tumkur Sports Complex will be asked to provide food and refreshments to the sportspersons as per KTPP rules. **Tender No.: DYES/2026-27/S0308 Dated: 09.06.2026** online e-tender has been invited at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and eligible bidders may participate in the e-tender.and for further information regarding the tender, the Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Mahatma Gandhi Stadium can be contacted during office hours.

Sd/-
Assistant Director
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
Tumkur
DIPR/TUM/RO- 49/26-27/Oysters

GOING ORGANIC WAY

Manipur expands organic farming with new fertiliser initiative

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Monday reaffirmed the state government's commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture by reducing dependence on chemical fertilisers and expanding organic farming across the state.

The Chief Minister made the announcement while flagging off fertiliser distribution trucks and launching the organic fertiliser brand Oorja during the Fertiliser Distribution Camp for Kharif 2026. The programme was organised by the Directorate of Agriculture at Sanjenthong in Imphal and attended by government officials, farmers, public representatives, and agricultural stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, Singh said that approximately 4,000 hectares of agricultural land have already been brought under organic cultivation in Manipur. He added that the government has set a target of bringing another 4,000 hectares under organic farming in the coming years as part of its broader strategy to encourage environmentally friendly and sustainable agricultural practices.

To support farmers in adopting organic methods, the government has introduced the Oorja fertiliser at a subsidised rate. While the market price of the product is Rs 480 per bag, farmers will be able to purchase it for Rs 250 per bag under the state-supported scheme. The initiative aims to make organic inputs more affordable and accessible, particularly for small and marginal farmers.

During the event, the Chief Minister also visited and inspected an Organic Outlet Shop established near the venue. He said the government is working on multiple fronts to strengthen agricultural infrastructure and ensure that farmers receive timely support during the cultivation season.

Highlighting fertiliser availability, Singh stated that around 1.8 lakh bags of urea were distributed across the state up to September last year.

QUICK READ

SP MP sparks row with 'majority community toxic' remark

Lucknow

Samajwadi Party Rajya Sabha MP Javed Ali Khan sparked a fresh political controversy with his sharp criticism of the BJP, accusing it of creating an atmosphere that has weakened trust between different communities. Speaking during a visit to Moradabad, Khan alleged that the BJP's politics has had a lasting impact on social relations and communal harmony across the country. Addressing reporters, the SP lawmaker claimed that the social fabric of the country has changed significantly in recent years. The poison spread by the BJP has been consumed by a large section of the majority community, and it has become poisonous, he said.

Arrest warrant against Banerjee's absconding EA Sumit Roy

Kolkata

A district court in West Midnapore district of West Bengal, on Monday, issued an arrest warrant against Sumit Roy, the executive assistant of Trinamool Congress' general secretary and the party's Lok Sabha member, Abhishek Banerjee. The arrest warrant against Roy, who is currently absconding, was issued in the morning by the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Medinipur in the district, following an appeal by the West Midnapore District Police. Sumit Roy is wanted following an FIR registered against him in a case related to illegal land-grabbing at Salboni Police Station under West Midnapore District Police. In fact, a joint team of Salboni Police Station, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

Adhikari to launch 6-day cleanliness drive at KMC HQ

Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari is scheduled to visit the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) headquarters on Monday to launch a six-day citywide cleanliness campaign titled Welcome to Cleanliness, ahead of the International Day of Yoga celebrations on June 21.

MODI TO LEAD YOGA DAY CELEBRATIONS IN KOLKATA

The main national event will be held at the historic Red Road in Kolkata under the leadership of the PM, states AYUSH Ministry.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the national celebrations of the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 in Kolkata on June 21, the Ministry of AYUSH announced on Monday while formally launching the nationwide and global countdown to the annual event.

The announcement was made during the curtain raiser programme for International Day of Yoga 2026, where the government outlined a series of activities planned across India and abroad to mark the occasion.

The main national event will be held at the historic Red Road under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

Speaking at the programme, Prataprao Jadhav unveiled the official theme for this year's observance, Yoga for Healthy Ageing. The theme emphasizes the role of yoga in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and a higher quality of life, particularly as populations around the world continue to age.

Jadhav noted that increasing life expectancy presents new challenges for societies, including ensuring that people remain healthy, active, and independent in their later years. He described yoga as a holistic and time-tested practice capable of addressing these concerns by supporting overall wellness and healthy ageing.Highlighting the growing international popularity of yoga, the minister said more than 210 Indian diplomatic missions worldwide, working in coordination with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, will organise celebrations at nearly 2,500 locations across the globe.

He observed that yoga has evolved into a worldwide movement since the United Nations General Assembly adopted India's proposal to establish an International Day of Yoga in 2014. According to Jadhav, yoga has transcended geographical, cultural, and linguistic barriers and has become a shared global practice promoting health, harmony, and well-being.The minister also announced that a nationwide live yoga session organised on June 14 attracted more than four lakh participants simultaneously, setting a new Guinness World Record. The achievement reflects the growing enthusiasm for yoga and wellness initiatives across the country.

As part of the broader celebrations, the Ministry of Culture will organise special Yoga Day programmes at 100 iconic locations nationwide. Meanwhile, the Ministry of AYUSH is conducting the Gangotri to Gangasagar: Ganga Tat Yoga Yatra from June 13 to June 20, combining yoga awareness with environmental conservation, river culture, and community engagement.

Ahead of the main event, Kolkata will host several programmes, including Doud se Dhyan on June 19 and Vande Yogam on June 20. These events are designed to promote fitness, mindfulness, patriotism, and India's rich cultural heritage.

Venugopal seeks resignation of 3 Kerala varsity VCs

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Criticising the vice-chancellors for their participation in RSS event, the Congress leader questioned their institutional neutrality.

Senior Congress leader KC Venugopal on Monday launched a sharp attack on three Kerala university vice-chancellors who attended an event linked to the centenary celebrations of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), demanding their immediate resignation and accusing them of compromising the secular character of higher education institutions.

The controversy arose after the vice chancellors of University of Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi University, and Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University participated in a lecture series held in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. The programme was organised as part of the RSS centenary celebrations and was addressed by Mohan Bhagwat.

Reacting strongly to their presence at the event, Venugopal described the participation of the university heads as inappropriate and inconsistent with the responsibilities of academic leadership. He argued that individuals occupying key positions in higher education institutions must uphold constitutional values, academic independence, and institutional neutrality.

In a strongly worded statement, the Congress leader alleged that persons influenced by RSS ideology should not lead educational institutions. He claimed that participation in such programmes reflected ideological alignment with an organisation whose views, according to him, run contrary to the secular and democratic principles enshrined in the Constitution.

Venugopal further stated that the actions of the vice chancellors had embarrassed Kerala's academic community. He urged them to resign from their positions if they wished to openly associate themselves with any ideological organisation. According to him, university administrators must remain above political and ideological affiliations to preserve the credibility and independence of educational institutions.

The Congress leader emphasised that the office of a vice chancellor requires not only academic excellence but also a strong commitment to secularism, democratic values, and constitutional principles. He argued that participation in events organised by ideological groups could undermine public confidence in the neutrality of universities.

Venugopal also accused the RSS of attempting to expand its influence within educational institutions. He asserted that Kerala has historically upheld secular and democratic traditions and would resist efforts to introduce what he described as divisive ideological narratives into public institutions.

The remarks have intensified political debate in Kerala, where issues concerning academic autonomy and institutional neutrality frequently generate controversy. Opposition parties and ruling political formations have continued to exchange accusations over the role of educational institutions and the extent to which academic leaders should engage with ideological or political platforms.

We recognise we need more foreign investment: FM

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday that the government would be taking further steps to attract more foreign capital into the country, and the measures announced for the bond market were only the beginning.

In her address at the Hero Mindmine Summit 2026 here, Sitharaman said: We recognise we need more foreign capital to come in.

But the fact that the RBI has now allowed public sector undertakings and banks to go out and raise money from outside is not the end of the story. We will be doing more.

The government recognised the need for greater foreign capital inflows and is working with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure markets receive the required investments, she added.

We believe the bond market can be a good way to absorb the capital coming in. As of now, we have done it only for government securities. Certainly, that is not the end of the story. We recognise we need more foreign capital coming into the country, the Finance Minister observed.

NEET-UG paper leak: Court extends judicial custody of 10 accused

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday extended till June 29 the judicial custody of 10 accused in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The accused were produced before the Rouse Avenue Court through video conferencing from Tihar Jail upon the expiry of their previously granted judicial custody. The court extended the judicial custody of Yash Yadav, Mangilal Biwal, Dinesh Biwal, Vikas Biwal, Dhananjay Lokhande, Tejas Harshad Shah, Shubham Khairnar, Manisha Waghmare, Manisha Sanjay Havaldar and Dr Manoj Shirure till June 29.

The Rouse Avenue Court also permitted the CBI to interrogate accused Shubham Khairnar, Manisha Waghmare and Dhananjay Lokhande inside jail on June 17, 18 and 19, respectively.

The probe agency has been allowed to question each of the accused for one hour as part of its ongoing investigation into the alleged examination paper leak.

The CBI has so far arrested 13 accused in the case and is investigating an alleged network involved in procuring and circulating NEET-UG question papers ahead of the examination.

Earlier, on June 1, the Rouse Avenue Court had remanded accused Dr Manoj Shirure, Tejas Harshadkumar Shah and Manisha Sanjay Havaldar to judicial custody till June 15. The Central agency has alleged that Shirure, a Latur-based doctor, played a key role in facilitating three students, including the son of an accused coaching centre owner, in obtaining Chemistry questions from alleged kingpin P.V. Kulkarni before the examination.

Shah, a Physics faculty member at Pune-based Abhang Prabhu Medical Academy (APMA), is alleged to have received leaked Physics questions from co-accused Manisha Havaldar.

The case pertains to the alleged leak of the NEET-UG 2026 examination paper, following which the CBI registered an FIR on May 12 on the basis of a complaint lodged by the Department of Higher Education under the Union Ministry of Education.

According to the probe agency, Pune-based education consultant Manisha Waghmare was among the intermediaries involved in mobilising students who allegedly paid lakhs of rupees to attend special coaching sessions where questions that later appeared in the NEET-UG 2026 examination were dictated and discussed.

SP MP sparks row with 'majority community toxic' remark

NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will inaugurate the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026 on Tuesday, marking the beginning of a national initiative designed to encourage greater youth participation in democratic processes and provide young citizens with practical exposure to governance and parliamentary functioning.

Organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the three-day national-level event is being held from June 15 to June 17 in New Delhi. The programme seeks to channel the ideas, energy, and aspirations of India's youth into constructive discussions on nation-building while fostering a deeper understanding of democratic institutions.

According to an official statement, the initiative builds on the success of previous editions and aims to create meaningful opportunities for young people to engage with public policy, governance, and legislative processes. The programme is aligned with the broader vision of preparing future leaders who can contribute to India's development goals and the journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Youth Parliament follows a structured three-stage format comprising District Nodal Rounds, State Rounds, and the National Round. Through this multi-tiered process, participants from across the country compete and advance based on their performance. The ongoing National Round has brought together top-performing delegates representing all States and Union Territories for the final phase of the programme.

One of the key activities during the event will be the Opening Remarks session, where a representative from each participating team will address the House for three minutes on the theme Nari Shakti Vandan: Catalysing Inclusivity and Viksit Bharat 2047. The session is expected to encourage discussion on women's empowerment and inclusive development as essential components of India's future growth.The programme will also feature a simulated Question Hour, enabling participants to ask questions and respond to queries in a parliamentary setting.

'Keralam women can now travel for free'

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday welcomed the rollout of the Kerala government's 'Priyadarshini' scheme, which provides free travel for women and transgender persons on ordinary Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses across the state.

Congress General Secretary, Organisation, K.C. Venugopal, hailed the launch as the first of the Congress-led UDF government's 'Indira Guarantees' to be implemented after assuming office. In a post on X, Venugopal said: Within a month of assuming office, the UDF has rolled out its 1st Indira Guarantee! The widely awaited Priyadarshini Free Bus Scheme is now in force! Women across Kerala will be able to travel for free on KSRTC buses, and save thousands of rupees every month! We believe in pro-people welfare and always deliver on our promises – be it in Karnataka, Telangana or now in Kerala!

The Priyadarshini scheme, which was among the five 'Indira Guarantees' announced by the Congress-led alliance during the Assembly election campaign, came into effect across Kerala from Monday.

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/EW/COE_CLAT/CR-02/2026-27 Date: 16.06.2026

Announcement of Tender

Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities For the **academic year 2026-27, in the Pre-University Colleges functioning under the Directorate of Minorities, in order to provide CLAT coaching and other training programs.** Interested & eligible bidders/Institutes can apply through e-Procurement Portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**16.06.2026**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 600.00 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs.9,00,000/-**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**23.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**06.07.2026 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**08.07.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**15.07.2026 at 11:30 a.m.** (Tentative)
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902 080-22535912.**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1171/MAA/2026-27

INSIDE THE 'SIR'

Fighting for rights in the land they call home

OISHANI MUKHERJEE, BENGALURU

Ahead of the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, the Election Commission of India conducted a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls to remove duplicate, deceased, shifted, and otherwise ineligible entries.

While the exercise aimed to ensure that only eligible Indian citizens remained on the voter list, it also led to concerns from several individuals who claimed they had been wrongly excluded despite possessing valid identity documents. As part of the process, residents were required to undergo document verification and submit proof of identity and eligibility, including Aadhaar and other supporting records.

As per Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal, the draft electoral roll contained 7,08,16,630 voters. During the revision, 5,46,053 additional names were deleted, taking the total number of deletions from the state's voter list to 63,66,952. TMC MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy also acknowledged that "some genuine people were eliminated from the voter list."

Among those helping affected individuals is Kajal Mandal, LL.B., LL.M., an advocate at Jangipur SD Court in Raghunathganj of Murshidabad. Drawing from her experience handling such cases, she said she began assisting people after witnessing the confusion and distress many families faced. "Seeing the anxiety, confusion, and hardships faced by ordinary citizens motivated me to assist affected individuals by guiding them through the process and helping them approach local authorities for the correction of records," she said.

According to Mandal, clerical mistakes often play a significant role in such cases. "Clerical errors, spelling mistakes – mainly in voters" surnames – and mistakes during voter list revision were some of the main reasons," she explained. She also highlighted the practical difficulties faced by citizens, including repeated office visits, excessive paperwork, and a lack of clear information.

Recalling one such instance, she said, "Indian origin residents lived here from the British era but found their names removed despite having valid documents." Mandal believes that concerns over illegal immigration have contributed to stricter verification measures but emphasised that genuine citizens should not suffer because of them.

"Strong action against illegal immigration should be balanced with safeguards that prevent genuine citizens from being wrongly excluded," she said.

QUICK READ

UNHR chief welcomes US-Iran deal, calls for restraint

Geneva

The United Nations Human Rights chief on Monday welcomed the peace deal between the United States and Iran, urging maximum restraint on all sides so a lasting agreement could be reached. U.S. and Iranian officials said they had reached an agreement to end their war, a preliminary pact that sent oil prices falling but leaves the fate of Tehran's nuclear program to further negotiations. I welcome the announcement that the United States and Iran have agreed on a peace deal that provides for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and a framework for further negotiations, U.N. rights chief Volker Turk said. At this fragile moment it is clear all sides need to exercise maximum restraint and work to implement the agreement reached quickly and in good faith.

Russia rejects claims over Kyiv monastery damage

Russia denied responsibility for monastery damage, blaming air defense systems and accusing Western nations of misinformation.

MOSCOW

Russia on Monday firmly rejected accusations from Ukraine and Western countries that its forces had struck a historic monastery in Kyiv during a large-scale overnight attack, describing the allegations as false and misleading.

The controversy centers on the centuries-old Pechersk Lavra monastery, one of Ukraine's most significant religious and cultural landmarks. Reports emerged after the overnight assault that the monastery had suffered substantial damage, drawing criticism from Ukraine and several Western governments ahead of a Group of Seven (G7) meeting scheduled to take place in France later this week.

Responding to the accusations, Russia's Defence Ministry stated that its military had not targeted the monastery. According to the ministry, the operation was directed against what it described as military-industrial facilities and factories connected to Ukraine's defense sector. Russian officials argued that the damage to the religious site was caused by a missile from a United States-made Patriot air defense system rather than by a Russian strike.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova strongly dismissed the claims against Moscow. In an official statement, she characterized the allegations as another falsification and a crude fake, asserting that the Russian Defence Ministry had already provided an accurate explanation of the events.

Zakharova further accused Ukraine and its Western allies of deliberately spreading misinformation regarding the incident. She argued that critics of Russia had rushed to assign blame without waiting for a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the damage to the monastery.

The Russian spokeswoman also directed criticism at French President Emmanuel Macron and other European leaders. She claimed that they had been quick to condemn Moscow over the damage to the religious site while remaining silent about other incidents that Russia attributes to Ukrainian attacks.

Among those incidents, Zakharova cited strikes on a student dormitory and a museum in Crimea. She alleged that the museum attack resulted in the destruction of an iconic artwork and accused Western governments of applying double standards in their responses to such events.

African migrants with deep roots in SA flee xenophobic attacks

DURBAN

When 33-year-old Princess Adjei set up her hair salon in downtown Durban in November, she had lived in South Africa since moving from Ghana as a toddler; there was no other place she called home.

Adjei did all her schooling in South Africa, has local friends and speaks Zulu, the lingua franca of this eastern port city. It had rarely occurred to her that she was an outsider.

On May 18, demonstrators at an anti-migrant march broke into her salon and looted it. Suddenly, even people she knew started demanding that she go home to a country she's visited once. Adjei is one of scores of victims of attacks on mostly African foreign nationals accused by an anti-immigration movement of being in South Africa illegally. Many of them have legal papers and deep roots here.

They took everything, Adjei said, surveying the wreckage of her first-floor shop, amid smashed mirrors and broken chairs. Those were hair pieces I was selling here, she told Reuters, gesturing to a wall of empty hooks. There were acrylic nails, six hair dryers, a range of shampoos. All gone.

Adjei said she spent 50,000 rand (more than $3,000) renovating the salon in February. This month, she moved out of her central Durban apartment.

Without the salon .... I don't have money for rent, she said, showing Reuters a blanket where she and her 14-year-old son now sleep next to 200 other migrants on the street. They have set up camp outside the office of the government's Department of Home Affairs, hoping officials there will be able to confirm their residency status.

Other Africans have fled towns and cities and taken refuge on mountains and rough ground amid violence that has killed at least five and caused a diplomatic rift with the rest of the continent.

Reuters interviewed a dozen migrants in Durban, four of whom had been in South Africa since childhood.

March and March, the organisation which began the protests last month, denies xenophobia.

ANCIENT KYIV MONASTERY DAMAGED IN RUSSIAN ATTACK

KYIV

A millennium-old monastery regarded as one of Ukraine's most important spiritual and cultural landmarks was heavily damaged during a large-scale Russian aerial assault on Kyiv, Ukrainian authorities said on Monday.

The overnight attacks, described as among the most intense in recent weeks, left at least 10 people dead across the country and renewed international condemnation of the conflict.

The damaged site, the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, is a UNESCO World Heritage site founded in 1051 and is considered one of the most significant religious centers in Eastern Europe. Ukrainian officials reported that the monastery's Dormition Cathedral caught fire during the attack, causing extensive damage to a structure whose history dates back nearly a thousand years.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy strongly condemned the strike, calling it one of the gravest attacks on Christian cultural heritage since the start of the war. In a statement on social media, he said the assault represented an attack on Ukraine's history and identity. Visiting the site later in the day, Zelenskiy pledged that the damaged structures would be restored despite the destruction.

The attack occurred shortly after Zelenskiy disclosed that he had discussed efforts to end the conflict with U.S. President Donald Trump ahead of the G7 summit in France. The timing of the strike drew additional attention as world leaders prepared to discuss security and diplomatic developments related to the war.

France reacted sharply to the monastery damage. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot compared the attack on the ancient religious complex to bombing the iconic Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral, emphasizing the cultural and historical significance of the site.

Residents of Kyiv spent hours in underground shelters as drones and missiles targeted the capital. Witnesses reported seeing flames rise above the monastery complex while air defense systems attempted to intercept incoming threats. The attack marked the deadliest assault on the city since early June, when previous strikes killed more than 20 people and injured over 100 others.

Russia denied responsibility for damaging the monastery. Russian officials claimed the site had been struck by debris from a U.S.-made Patriot air defense missile rather than by a Russian weapon.

G7 leaders gather amid trade, security tensions

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

Leaders of the Group of Seven nations began arriving on Monday in the French resort town of Evian-les-Bains for a summit expected to be dominated by discussions on international security, trade disputes, the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and concerns about the future of the global order.

The three-day summit, running from June 15 to June 17, brings together the heads of government of the world's leading industrialized democracies at a time of growing geopolitical uncertainty. A key topic on the agenda will be the next steps regarding Iran after Washington and Tehran announced that they had reached a preliminary agreement aimed at ending their recent conflict.

Another major focus will be the ongoing war in Ukraine. Leaders are expected to discuss continued support for Kyiv, prospects for a ceasefire, and broader efforts to achieve a lasting peace. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is scheduled to participate in discussions and hold meetings with several world leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump.

The summit comes amid growing concerns among U.S. allies regarding Washington's approach to international affairs. Trump's tariff policies and shifting positions on global issues have raised questions among partner nations about the United States' long-term commitment to the international system it helped establish after World War II.

Shortly before departing for France, Trump intensified trade tensions by warning that the United States could impose 100 percent tariffs on French wine if France maintains its digital tax on major American technology companies. The remarks highlighted continuing disagreements between Washington and several European governments over taxation and trade policy.

French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed Trump's participation in the summit, viewing his attendance as important for maintaining dialogue among allied nations. French officials had reportedly worked to ensure his presence after he departed last year's G7 gathering in Canada ahead of schedule.

In addition to economic issues, leaders will seek common ground on securing critical mineral supplies and reducing dependence on dominant suppliers, particularly China. Discussions are also expected to focus on global economic imbalances and strengthening supply chain resilience.

A significant bilateral meeting is scheduled between Trump and Zelenskiy on Tuesday. The talks come after a recent escalation of Russian attacks on Ukraine, including strikes on Kyiv that caused casualties and infrastructure damage.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, UTTAMKUMAR JAIN HIRACHAND BABULAL, old name, a resident of No 11/2, 2ND FLOOR, RANGA RAO ROAD, SHANKARAPURAM, BENGALURU - 560004, KARNATAKA, INDIA, have changed my name to UTTAMKUMAR HEERACHAND JAIN, NEW Name, vide affidavit dated 15-06-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ADITYA KRISHNAN KANDIYOOR (old name), a resident of No No 85 BRINDAVAN, ROOM 201, SAI NITYA LAYOUT, KADUGODI, Bengaluru, 560067, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to ADITHYA KRISHNAN (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 15-06-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KASHAYYA IRAYYA BHIKSHAVATIMATH S/o VEERANNA, R/o Nellur, Musigeri, Ron, Gadag, Karnataka-582211, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHIVUKUMAR VEERANNA BHIKSHAVATIMATH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NINGAPPA S/o NAGAPPA, R/o 8th Cross, Shanthi Nagar, Ringh Road, Southern Extension-dvg, Davanagere, Karnataka-577004, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GURULINGAPPA AGASARA.

NAME CHANGE

I, **NIYAMATHULLA MUSTAFA MOHAMMED**, S/o P K Mohammed Mustafa, resident of No.1591, 2nd Main Road, Arogyamma Layout, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED NIYAMATH ULLAH**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 15-06-2026 Before Notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ASRA SIDIQA.F**, W/o Shanawaz Khan, resident of No 6, 4th Cross, 1st Main Road, Chinnappa Garden, Benson Town, Bengaluru - 560046, have changed my name to **ASRA SIDDIQUA**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 15-06-2026 Before Notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ELIYAS PASHA JAN**, S/o Navab Jan, aged 49 years, Residing at No.147, 2nd Main, B M Layout, Venkateshpuram, Arabic College Post, Bangalore-560045, have changed my name to **ILLYAS**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 15-06-2026 Before Notary GANGARAJU.B.N., Bengaluru.

NAME CORRECTION

Syed Fairoz Pasha, Residing at: No. 4064/52, Mahaboobnagara, Ward No.18, Near Govt. Urdu School, Phool Bagh, Ramanagara Town, Bangalore South District-562159. I declare that my son by name Syed Owais Fairoz passed out 10th Standard at B.G.S. World School, Ramanagara-562159, during 2026-27 under Council for the Indian School, Certificate Examinations (ICSE), New Delhi under unique ID 8756732. Further declare that my son's name is entered as SYED OWAIZ FAIROZ instead of SYED OWAIS FAIROZ. Hence rectify the name of my son as SYED OWAIS FAIROZ

NAME CHANGE

I, **NAPHISA BEGAUM**, No.1531, 14TH Cross Ramakrishna hegde Nagar, Bengaluru -560077, have changed my name to **NAFEESA BEGUM** vide affidavit dated 10.06.2026 before Notary N. NAGAPPA , Bangalore.

NAME CHANGE

I, **NAYEEM HUSSAIN SHARIEFF**, S/o Ghulam Salar Hussain, resident No. 51/37, 5th Cross, Shampura Main Road, Sri Kantaiah Layout, Sarvodaya Nagar, Bengaluru – 560045, Karnataka, have changed my name to **NAYEEM HUSSAIN SHARIFF**, vide affidavit dated: 13.06.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SHAIK AMEEN PEER KHAJA MIYAN**, S/o Khaja Miyan, resident of No.1591, 2nd Main Road, Arogyamma Layout, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name to **SHAIK AMEEN PEER**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 15-06-2026 Before Notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client by name Sri. Jafar Ulla son of Sri. Abdul Ruff, residing at 11th Ward, 2nd Block, Near Mulla Ali Masjid, Rehamaniya Nagara, Ramanagara Town and Bangalore South District, has lost Original Registered Sale Deed dated 30-01-2010, executed by Sri. Narayanappa in favour of Smt. Nageena Taj, which is duly registered as Document No. RMN-1-06969/2009-10, CD. No. RMND-107, Book-1, Registered on 30-01-2010 and Registered at Sub Register Office, Ramanagara, in Ramanagara Town on 09-05-2026. Hence, if anyone found the said document, please intimate the same or handover the same to me or my client.
Contact Address:
Rajini. M.S., B.A., LL.B., Advocate., 1st Floor, Society Building, PLD Bank Road, Opposite Old Bus Stop, Ramanagara Town-562159.
Mob: 8884242935.
Place: Ramanagara.
Date: 15-06-2026.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

NAME CHANGE

I, **ASLAM SHAMSHEER** S/o. B J Hasan. No.47, Amaravathi Layout,nagasandra post , Bangalore 560073, have changed my name to **SHAMSHEER B H,** vide affidavit dated 15.06.2026 before Notary Hari Krishna , Bangalore 560073.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SHABNAM ASLAM** W/o. Shamsheer B H .No.47, Amaravathi Layout,nagasandra post , Bangalore 560073, have changed my name to **SHABNAM SHAMSHEER** vide affidavit dated 15.06.2026 before Notary Hari Krishna , Bangalore 560073.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHSEENA TAJ**, W/o. Ayub Khan, resident of No 244,Thimmaiah Road, Mecca Masjid, Nehrupuram, Bengaluru-560001, have changed my name to **MOHSINA TAJ**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 15-06-2026 Before Notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

Magnitude 6.6 quake strikes southern Philippines

Mindanao

A magnitude 6.6 earthquake struck the southern Philippine island of Mindanao on Monday, the Philippine state seismology agency Phivolcs said. The quake that struck 164 km (102 miles) southeast of Governor Generoso in Davao Oriental province had a depth of 86 km, Phivolcs said, adding that no damage is expected. Make sense of the latest ESG trends affecting companies and governments with the Reuters Sustainable Switch newsletter. Phivolcs director Teresito Bacolcol told DZMM radio that Monday's quake originated along the Philippine Trench and is not connnected to the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Mindanao on June 8, with its epicentre more than 250 km away. The death toll from last week's powerful quake has risen to 65 with 36 individuals still missing, the country's civil defence agency said.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL., CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR

Crimisc. No.345/2026

Petitioner's: 1. Sri. Poojappa S/o Late Narasaiah, @ Narasappa Aged about 68 years, **2.Sri. Narasimharaju K. P.** S/o Late Poojappa, Aged about 53 years, R/at Kangalapura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluku, Bengaluru Rural District. **3.Smt. Sharadamma K. P.** D/o Poojappa, Aged about 37 years, R/at, Karehalli Village, Oblapura Nelamangala Taluku, Bengaluru Rural District.

Respondent: The Thasildar, Doddaballapura Taluku, Doddaballapua,

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas, the above petitioners have filed above said petition against respondents for Birth and death on Bengaluru Rural District, Doddaballapura Taluku, Doddabelavangala Hobli Kangalapura Village Petitioner Mother death on Dated: 10/07/1990 on the file of this Hon'ble court. Therefore, you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble court by yourself or through your as on before this Hon'ble court by at yourself or through your or through your advocate on 18.07.2026 11'O'clock failing which you are determined as expert.

Given under my hand seal of the court on the day of 15.06.2026

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & J.M.F.C. Doddaballapura

Advocate: **Sri. R Prabhakar**, NO. 3755, Deshadapete, Doddaballapura.
DODABALLAPUARA, DATE: 15.06.2026

Putin declined G7 peace talks: Zelenskiy

KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday that he had proposed a face-to-face meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin during the G7 summit in France this week in an effort to advance peace talks, but claimed Moscow was unwilling to engage in direct discussions.

Speaking to reporters at Kyiv's historic Pechersk Lavra monastery, which was recently damaged during a large-scale overnight attack, Zelenskiy said Ukraine had conveyed its readiness for negotiations at the gathering in Evian-les-Bains. He noted that the summit would bring together major Western leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron.

According to Zelenskiy, the presence of European leaders alongside the United States would have provided a valuable opportunity for comprehensive discussions aimed at ending the conflict that has entered its fourth year. He said Ukraine had informed both American officials and Macron about the proposal and had also delivered the invitation directly to Russian representatives.

We are ready to meet with Putin during the G7, Zelenskiy said, adding that the combination of European and American participation created what he described as a strong platform for dialogue. However, he stated that Russia had failed to provide a clear response and had once again demonstrated a lack of willingness to enter meaningful talks.

A Ukrainian official confirmed that Kyiv had pursued multiple diplomatic channels to communicate the invitation. While Western partners reportedly supported the initiative, Moscow did not formally commit to the proposed meeting.

Ukraine's president urged direct negotiations at the G7 summit, but said Russia refused engagement.

The proposal follows an open letter sent by Zelenskiy to Putin earlier this month in which the Ukrainian leader called for direct negotiations and argued that the prolonged conflict was placing increasing pressure on Russia's economy. Putin publicly dismissed the suggestion, saying he saw no reason for a personal meeting and asserting that Ukrainian long-range drone attacks posed no significant economic threat.

The diplomatic tensions unfolded against the backdrop of a major Russian assault on Ukraine. Ukrainian authorities reported that at least 10 people were killed in overnight attacks on Kyiv and the northeastern city of Kharkiv. Zelenskiy accused Putin of acting cynically by launching the strikes only hours after holding a telephone conversation with Trump.

Sweden thrash Tunisia 5-1 to take command of WC group

Ayari scores twice as Sweden dominate and move atop group

MONTERREY

Sweden delivered a commanding performance to defeat Tunisia 5-1 and seize control of Group F at the FIFA World Cup, exposing the North African side's usually resolute defence in a one-sided contest on Sunday.

The emphatic victory strengthened Sweden's hopes of progressing to the knockout stages and underlined the attacking quality of a side looking to make a deep run in the tournament after missing out on qualification for the 2022 World Cup.

Managed by Graham Potter, Sweden made a dream start in Guadalupe and took the lead in just the seventh minute. Midfielder Yasin Ayari capitalised on a defensive mix-up before unleashing a powerful strike from outside the penalty area that left the goalkeeper helpless. Despite the quality of the finish, Ayari's celebration was subdued, reflecting his Moroccan and Tunisian family heritage.

Sweden doubled their advantage in the 30th minute through Alexander Isak. The Liverpool forward surged down the left flank, cut inside and fired a shot that goalkeeper Mouhib Chamakh failed to keep out despite getting a hand to the ball.

Tunisia entered the tournament with a formidable defensive reputation after completing qualification without conceding a single goal, a feat later matched only by Ivory Coast and England. However, they struggled to cope with Sweden's pace and movement throughout the match.

The North Africans briefly reignited hopes of a comeback just before halftime when defender Omar Rekik headed home a precise cross from Hannibal Mejbri to reduce the deficit to 2-1.

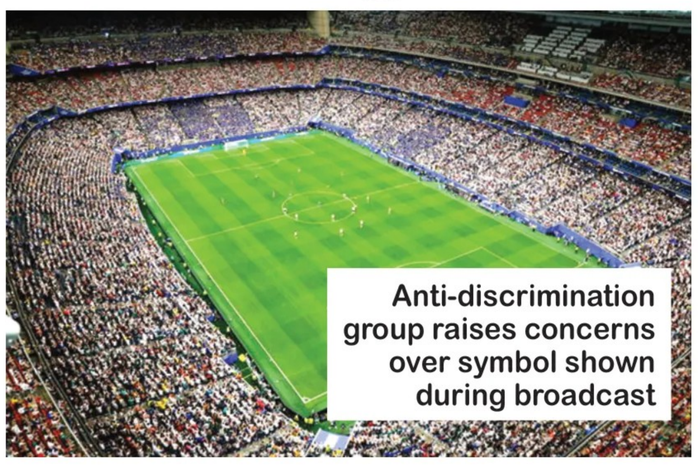
Any momentum gained by Tunisia quickly disappeared after the break. Sweden restored their two-goal cushion in the 59th minute when Ellyes Skhiri was dispossessed near his own penalty area. Isak seized the opportunity and set up Viktor Gyokeres, who calmly finished to make it 3-1.

Substitute Mattias Svanberg added a fourth goal after a VAR review confirmed he was onside. Ayari then completed the scoring in style with another stunning long-range strike, capping a memorable evening for the midfielder.

Earlier in Group F, Japan national football team scored late to secure a 2-2 draw against the Netherlands national football team. The results leave Sweden in a strong position as the race for the knockout stages gathers momentum.

FIFA racism monitor urges removal of World Cup official over hand gesture

GENEVA



Anti-discrimination group raises concerns over symbol shown during broadcast

FIFA's anti-discrimination monitoring partner has called for a video review official to be removed from the ongoing FIFA World Cup after he appeared to make a hand gesture associated with white supremacist groups during a live television broadcast.

The controversy emerged before Germany's opening World Cup match against Curaçao when the official broadcast briefly showed the team of Video Assistant Referee (VAR) analysts working at FIFA's broadcast centre in Dallas. During the segment, Australian video review official Shaun Evans was seen making an upside-down "OK" hand gesture with his right hand.

The gesture, formed by touching the thumb and forefinger while extending the remaining fingers, has drawn scrutiny in recent years because of its association with extremist groups. In 2019, the gesture was added to the hate symbols database of the Anti-Defamation League, although experts have repeatedly stressed that context is crucial in determining intent.

The criticism came from the Fare Network, a long-time partner of FIFA and UEFA in monitoring racism, discrimination and hate symbols at international football matches. In a statement, the organisation said the gesture closely resembled a symbol used by global far-right and white supremacist movements and argued that Evans should play no further role in the tournament.

Fare described the gesture as inappropriate for an event of the World Cup's stature and questioned why such a sign would be displayed while cameras were focused on match officials before kickoff.

FIFA has yet to issue a formal response regarding the incident. Requests for comment were also directed to Australia's football authorities and the Professional Football Referees Association.

The circumstances surrounding the gesture remain unclear. It has not been established whether Evans intended any political message or was instead making what is commonly known as the "circle game" gesture, a long-running prank in which participants attempt to trick others into looking at an upside-down hand sign.

The symbol gained notoriety after being appropriated by extremist groups, initially as part of an online hoax that later evolved into a genuine hate symbol in some contexts. Experts have noted that the same gesture can still have harmless meanings depending on the situation.

Evans is one of 30 video review officials selected by FIFA for the World Cup being hosted across the United States, Canada and Mexico. The incident has reignited debate over symbolism, intent and vigilance against discrimination at major sporting events.

Amad Diallo's late strike hands Ivory Coast victory over Ecuador

Manchester United forward scores dramatic winner in entertaining Group E clash

PHILADELPHIA

A late goal from Amad Diallo earned Ivory Coast a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Ecuador in their opening Group E match of the FIFA World Cup 2026, ending Ecuador's impressive 19-match unbeaten run.

With the contest seemingly headed for a draw, the Manchester United forward emerged as the hero in the 90th minute. Defender Wilfried Singo surged down the right flank and delivered a precise pass into the penalty area. Amad met it perfectly, guiding a composed finish into the far corner from the edge of the box to secure all three points for the African champions.

The result gives Ivory Coast a strong start in a challenging group and sets up an intriguing clash with Germany, who thrashed Curaçao 7-1 in the other Group E fixture.

The match was an entertaining and open affair, with both teams creating numerous opportunities but struggling to find the breakthrough. Ecuador, unbeaten since September 2024, will feel unfortunate not to have taken something from the contest after striking the woodwork twice in the first half.

John Yeboah came closest to opening the scoring early on when his powerful effort from outside the area crashed against the crossbar. Moments later, Alan Minda latched onto a pass from Pedro Vite, rounded the goalkeeper and looked set to score, only to see his effort rebound off the woodwork.

Ivory Coast gradually gained control and looked increasingly dangerous after the break, largely through the brilliance of teenage winger Yan Diomande. The youngster was a constant threat with his pace, dribbling and creativity, troubling Ecuador's defence throughout the match.

Diomande created several promising opportunities and nearly found the net himself, first shooting narrowly wide and later blazing over after carving open space inside the penalty area. He also played a key role in Ivory Coast's best chance before the winner, setting up Elye Wahi, whose effort rattled the crossbar.

As frustration appeared to be mounting for both sides, Ivory Coast finally found the decisive moment. Amad's cool finish rewarded a dominant second-half display and ensured the Ivorians started their World Cup campaign with a valuable victory.

The win places Ivory Coast firmly in contention for a place in the knockout rounds, while Ecuador will now look to bounce back when they face Curaçao in their next Group E encounter.

Germany hammer Curacao 7-1 to make emphatic World Cup statement

HOUSTON

Four-time world champions Germany began their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign in dominant style with a commanding 7-1 victory over tournament debutants Curacao in a Group E clash in Houston.

Germany set the tone early when Felix Nmecha scored in the sixth minute, registering the fastest goal of the tournament so far. Curacao briefly stunned the favourites through Livano Comenencia's deflected equaliser, but Germany quickly regained control.

Nico Schlotterbeck restored the lead with a header before Kai Havertz converted a penalty won by Nmecha to give Germany a comfortable halftime advantage. The second half saw continued German dominance as Jamal Musiala added a fourth goal with a composed finish.

Germany's attacking depth was further highlighted when Nathaniel Brown scored on his World Cup debut and Deniz Undav also found the net. Havertz completed the rout with his second goal of the match, sealing an emphatic 7-1 win. The result puts Germany at the top of Group E and strengthens their early title credentials. Curacao, despite the heavy defeat, marked a historic milestone as the smallest nation ever to qualify for the World Cup. Germany next face Ivory Coast, while Curacao take on Ecuador.

Late equaliser secures valuable point in dramatic WC encounter

Japan fight back twice to earn thrilling 2-2 draw with Netherlands

ARLINGTON

Japan showcased remarkable resilience by coming from behind twice to secure a dramatic 2-2 draw against the Netherlands in an entertaining FIFA World Cup Group F clash, earning a valuable point in their opening match of the tournament.

The contest burst into life after halftime following a tightly contested first period in which Japan's disciplined defensive structure frustrated the Dutch attack. However, the breakthrough finally arrived six minutes after the restart when Netherlands captain Virgil van Dijk rose highest to meet a precise cross from Ryan Gravenberch and powered a header into the far corner.

The Dutch appeared to have gained control of the match, but Japan responded swiftly. Just six minutes later, Keito Nakamura levelled the scores with a powerful low strike from outside the penalty area, giving the Netherlands goalkeeper little chance and reigniting Japan's hopes.

The equaliser injected fresh energy into the contest, with both teams pushing forward in search of a winner. The Netherlands regained the lead in the 64th minute through an outstanding effort from Crysencio Summerville. The winger produced a moment of brilliance, curling a shot that struck the far post before finding the back of the net.

Despite falling behind for a second time, Japan refused to surrender. Their persistence and determination kept them in the game as they searched for another breakthrough against a Dutch side that looked increasingly likely to claim all three points.

The decisive moment arrived in the 88th minute when substitute Koki Ogawa rose superbly to meet a corner kick and directed a powerful header goalward. The ball took a slight touch off Daichi Kamada before crossing the line, sparking jubilant celebrations among the Japanese players and supporters.

Hamilton ends Ferrari wait with emotional Spanish Grand Prix triumph

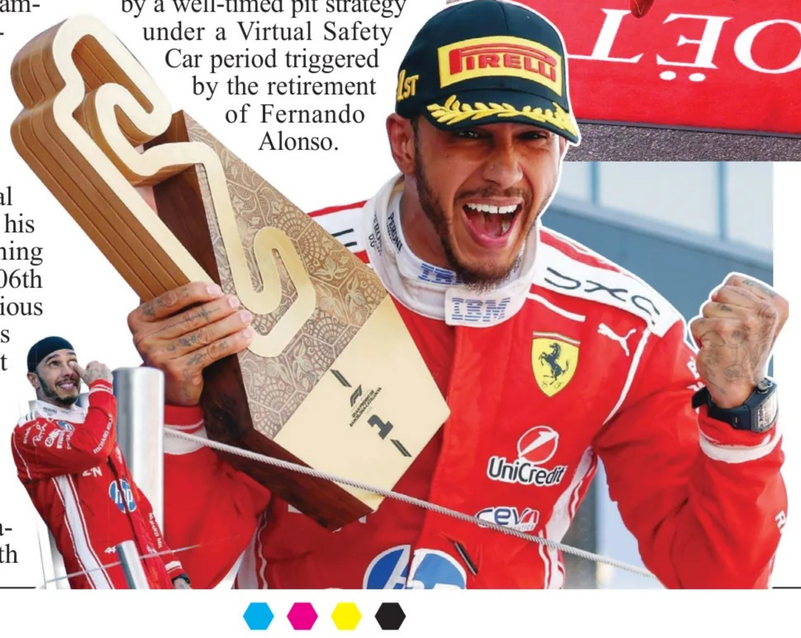
BARCELONA

Seven-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton secured a memorable first victory for Ferrari, winning the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix and ending championship leader Kimi Antonelli's remarkable five-race winning streak.

The triumph marked Hamilton's first race win since the 2024 Belgian Grand Prix during his final season with Mercedes and his maiden victory since joining Ferrari. It was also the 106th win of the Briton's illustrious Formula One career and his record seventh success at the Circuit de Catalunya.

At 41 years of age, Hamilton became the oldest Formula One race winner since legendary Australian driver Jack Brabham triumphed in South Africa in 1970. The victory was also Ferrari's first Grand Prix success since 2024, making the occasion particularly significant for the Italian team and its supporters.

Hamilton's success was aided by a well-timed pit strategy under a Virtual Safety Car period triggered by the retirement of Fernando Alonso.



The additional stop allowed the Ferrari driver to maintain his advantage and control the race during the closing stages.

An emotional Hamilton expressed his gratitude to Ferrari's staff after crossing the finish line. He praised the team's efforts and described the victory as the fulfilment of a dream since arriving at Maranello from Mercedes.

The race also proved costly for Antonelli. The 19-year-old Mercedes driver, who had won the previous five races and led the championship, retired with just five laps remaining after suffering an electrical failure while running second. It was the first major setback of an otherwise sensational campaign for the young Italian.

Mercedes still enjoyed a strong outing, with George Russell finishing second after starting from pole position.

Gaethje stuns Topuria to capture UFC Freedom 250 lightweight title

WASHINGTON

American mixed martial arts star Justin Gaethje produced a remarkable comeback performance to defeat Ilia Topuria and claim the lightweight championship at UFC Freedom 250, headlining a historic event held on the grounds of the White House.

Gaethje overcame a difficult start against the highly regarded Spanish-Georgian champion before turning the contest decisively in his favour during the middle rounds. The victory earned the American one of the biggest wins of his career and crowned him the new UFC lightweight champion.

Topuria appeared in control during the opening two rounds, displaying his trademark speed, precision and technical superiority. The reigning champion landed several clean combinations and seemed on course to extend his unbeaten run against one of the division's most durable competitors.

However, the momentum shifted dramatically in the third round when Gaethje connected with a devastating right hand that rocked Topuria. Sensing an opportunity, the American unleashed a relentless barrage of punches, repeatedly finding the target with powerful jabs and combinations that left his opponent bloodied and visibly shaken.

As the punishment accumulated, swelling around Topuria's eyes became increasingly severe. The champion struggled to defend himself effectively and was examined by the cageside doctor before being allowed to continue into the fourth round.

India auto sales surge to record May high

Alongside record passenger vehicle (PV) sales of 4.39 lakh units, two-wheeler and three-wheeler sales respectively.

NEW DELHI

India's automobile industry recorded its strongest-ever performance for the month of May, driven by broad-based demand across passenger vehicles, two-wheelers, and three-wheelers, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

The sector achieved record wholesale volumes, reflecting sustained consumer demand and improving market conditions.

Passenger vehicle (PV) sales rose sharply by 27.3% year-on-year to 4, 38,854 units in May 2026, compared to 3, 44,656 units in the same month last year. This marked the highest-ever PV sales for the month of May, supported by strong demand for utility vehicles and improved affordability.

The two-wheeler segment also posted strong growth, with sales increasing 14.8% to 19, 02,209 units. Within this category, scooter sales surged 27.4%, while motorcycles grew 7.2 percent and mopeds rose 30.3%.

The strong performance highlights continued rural demand recovery and steady urban mobility needs.

Three-wheeler sales climbed 31.1% to 70,720 units, with both passenger and goods carrier segments contributing significantly. Electric three-wheelers also saw notable growth, although from a smaller base, indicating gradual adoption of electric mobility solutions in the commercial segment.

According to SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon, all major vehicle categories recorded their highest-ever May sales. He attributed the growth to a low base in May 2025, reduced GST rates, and easier financing conditions that supported consumer purchases.

Retail data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) also confirmed strong market momentum, with passenger vehicle retail sales crossing the 4 lakh mark for the first time in May, rising 23.25 percent year-on-year.

FADA highlighted that growth was driven by rural demand, revival in entry-level car purchases, and continued preference for sport utility vehicles. Overall, the industry's performance signals strong consumer sentiment and sustained momentum across India's automobile market.

QUICK READ

Students boycott Pichai's stanford graduation address

New Delhi

Around 200 graduates walked out while Sundar Pichai delivered the commencement speech at Stanford University, according to reports. The protest targeted Google's ties with Israel and other issues raised by student activists. Pichai avoided discussing artificial intelligence, focusing instead on his journey from India to Silicon Valley and his early experiences at Google. Some protesters waved Palestinian flags, displayed banners, and blew whistles before leaving the ceremony. The demonstration was linked to opposition to Project Nimbus. Despite the disruption, the event continued, with Pichai's speech receiving occasional applause from attendees.

Mumbai redevelopment may unlock 59,000 homes by 2031

New Delhi

Mumbai's redevelopment pipeline could deliver nearly 59,000 new homes worth about Rs 1,500 billion by 2031, according to a report by Knight Frank India. The study highlighted a shift from individual building redevelopment to larger cluster-based projects. More than 1,094 housing societies are currently under redevelopment, unlocking around 432 acres of land. Suburban areas account for 95 per cent of the redevelopment pipeline, led by the western suburbs. The report noted that around 1.6 lakh buildings in Mumbai are over 30 years old and require structural audits. Redevelopment is also expected to generate over Rs 9,115 crore in stamp duty revenue and improve housing quality across the city.

Money laundering: ED arrests 2 more ex-Reliance executives

New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested two former senior executives of the Reliance Anil Ambani Group—Sateesh Seth and Gautam Bhailal Doshi—in connection with ongoing money laundering investigations, officials said. The arrests relate to probes involving Reliance Infrastructure Limited and Reliance Communications Limited under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Both were taken into custody after being produced before special courts in Mumbai and New Delhi. The ED alleged irregular financial transactions and fund diversion in infrastructure and telecom projects, while the group has said both individuals are no longer associated with the company. The investigation is still ongoing.

India trade deficit widens despite rising imports data

NEW DELHI

India recorded a widening trade deficit in May even as exports posted significant growth, driven by a sharper rise in imports, according to a recent report.

The increase in imports outpaced export gains, leading to a larger overall gap in the country's external trade balance. The report highlights that sustained domestic demand and higher input requirements contributed to import growth, while export momentum remained positive but insufficient to offset the surge in inbound shipments.

This imbalance reflects ongoing pressures in global commodity markets, supply chain adjustments, and evolving consumption patterns within the domestic economy, which continue to influence trade flows.

Despite the deficit widening, export sectors such as engineering goods, services, and manufactured products are expected to maintain steady growth supported by external demand recovery in key markets.

Economists note that sustained import growth may keep the trade gap elevated in coming months, though stronger exports and policy support could help stabilise external balances over time. Services exports, particularly in information technology and business services, continue to provide a buffer to merchandise trade pressures, helping to partially offset goods trade imbalances.

The increase in imports outpaced export gains, leading to a larger overall gap in the country's external trade balance.

However, volatility in global energy prices and geopolitical uncertainties remain key risks for import bills, influencing overall trade balance dynamics. Weaker external conditions in some advanced economies have also moderated export growth prospects, though diversification into emerging markets is helping maintain resilience.

Trade policymakers are closely monitoring the widening gap, with a focus on boosting manufacturing competitiveness, reducing import dependency, and enhancing export diversification strategies.

Analysts suggest that improving logistics infrastructure and easing regulatory bottlenecks could further strengthen export performance over the medium term.

At the same time, consumer demand for imported goods remains elevated, contributing to sustained pressure on the trade deficit. Overall, the trend reflects a transitional phase in external trade dynamics amid global uncertainty.

Sensex rises sharply as Iran-US peace deal eases oil prices and boosts investor market sentiment globally.

SENSEX SURGES 736 POINTS ON PEACE OPTIMISM

NEW DELHI

Indian equity markets rallied sharply on Monday, with the BSE Sensex surging 736 points and the Nifty 50 nearing the 24,000 mark, driven by strong global cues following easing geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran.

Investor sentiment improved significantly after reports of a peace agreement that aims to de-escalate conflict and reopen the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. The development triggered a sharp decline in global crude oil prices, easing inflation concerns and boosting expectations of stronger corporate margins, especially for oil-importing economies like India.

Market gains were broad-based, with banking, financial, energy, and infrastructure stocks leading the rally. Lower crude oil prices also improved outlooks for sectors sensitive to fuel costs, including aviation, logistics, and transportation. Positive global market trends further reinforced domestic buying momentum.

According to market tracking reports, the rally was supported by easing bond yields, stronger foreign investor sentiment, and improved risk appetite across Asian equities. The Indian rupee also showed strength amid lower import cost expectations tied to falling oil prices.

Analysts noted that the peace-related optimism has helped reduce near-term uncertainty that had weighed on markets in previous sessions. The easing of geopolitical tensions has also contributed to a broader global equity rally, with European and Asian markets posting gains alongside India.

The surge marks one of the strongest recent sessions for Indian equities, reflecting how sensitive markets remain to global geopolitical developments and commodity price movements. While sentiment has turned positive, analysts caution that volatility may persist as investors await clarity on the durability of the peace agreement and its impact on global oil supply flows.

Overall, the rally underscores how macroeconomic stability, crude oil trends, and geopolitical developments continue to play a decisive role in shaping Indian market direction.

Rupee jumps crude plunges; bond yields

NEW DELHI

The Indian rupee strengthened significantly against the US dollar on Monday, gaining 58 paise amid a sharp decline in global crude oil prices.

The domestic currency opened at 94.70 against the dollar in the interbank foreign exchange market and later appreciated further to 94.60. This followed the previous session, during which the rupee had already gained 67 paise to close at 95.18 per dollar.

The rally in the rupee was largely driven by a steep fall in oil prices after US President Donald Trump announced that the United States and Iran had finalized a peace agreement and agreed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The strategic waterway is one of the world's most important oil transit routes, carrying nearly 20% of global crude oil supplies. Reports indicate that the agreement is expected to be formally signed in Switzerland later this week.

Rupee gains 58 paise against dollar.
Crude oil prices fall sharply globally.
US-Iran peace deal boosts sentiment.
Lower oil prices support Indian economy.
Sensex and Nifty rise over 1%.

Following the announcement, Brent crude, the global benchmark, fell nearly 5% to around $83 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude dropped more than 5% to approximately $80 per barrel. Lower crude prices are particularly beneficial for India, which imports a large portion of its energy requirements. Reduced oil costs help lower the import bill, ease pressure on the current account deficit, and support the domestic currency.

Market experts noted that the rupee also benefited from softer sentiment surrounding the US dollar, declining US Treasury yields, and improved investor confidence across Asian markets. India's inflation rate rose to 3.9% in May but remained below the Reserve Bank of India's target of 4%, reinforcing economic stability.

Additionally, recent RBI initiatives aimed at attracting foreign currency inflows, including the revival of an NRI deposit window, have provided further support to the rupee.

Meanwhile, strong buying in domestic equities pushed the Sensex and Nifty up by more than 1 percent in early trading, reflecting positive market sentiment.

FCNR(B) revival eases pressure on bank funding costs

NEW DELHI

Fresh inflows through Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits, commonly known as FCNR(B) deposits, are expected to provide a modest but meaningful boost to Indian banks' profitability, as per a report by Systematix Group.

The report suggests that renewed inflows under the FCNR(B) window could lift banks' net interest margins (NIMs) by up to 4 basis points while easing overall funding cost pressures.

FCNR(B) deposits allow non-resident Indians to maintain fixed deposits in foreign currencies, which helps banks access relatively stable and cost-effective foreign currency funding. This becomes particularly important in a tight liquidity environment where domestic deposit growth may not fully keep pace with credit expansion.

The report highlights that the revival of such deposit inflows could improve balance sheet stability for banks, especially at a time when funding costs have been elevated due to competitive pressure for retail deposits and shifting liquidity conditions in the financial system.

Jewar Airport set to drive property price growth

NEW DELHI

Jewar Airport boosts nearby property prices
Values may rise 15–20% annually
Improved connectivity attracts investors, companies
Noida office leasing expected to grow
Residential demand rises along Expressway corridor

The launch of commercial flight operations at Noida International Airport is expected to significantly boost real estate development in the surrounding region, with property values projected to grow at a compound annual rate of 15–20 percent over the next four to five years, according to industry experts.

Real estate stakeholders believe the operationalization of the airport marks a major milestone that will strengthen the region's appeal as an investment destination and accelerate economic development. Enhanced connectivity is expected to attract businesses, industries, and global investors, creating long-term demand across residential, commercial, and industrial real estate segments.

Experts noted that the airport will further strengthen Noida's office market by attracting multinational companies and global occupiers. According to Colliers India, Noida is likely to witness annual office leasing of 2–3 million square feet from 2026 onward. This could account for nearly one-fourth of the total Grade A office space absorption across the Delhi-NCR region, highlighting Noida's growing importance as a corporate hub.

On the residential front, some of the airport's positive impact has already been reflected in property prices. However, key housing markets along the Noida Expressway are expected to witness rising demand for new project launches and home sales. Industry experts believe improved connectivity and employment opportunities will attract both end-users and investors.

Colliers estimates that average property values around the airport corridor could increase by 15–20 percent annually over the next four to five years. Growth is expected to be driven by demand across both mid-income and luxury housing segments.

The airport recently began commercial operations with IndiGo becoming the first airline to operate flights from the facility. Earlier, Ram Mohan Naidu stated that the airport, inaugurated by Narendra Modi, would emerge as a major centre for employment, investment, and economic growth, benefiting not only Uttar Pradesh but also the wider national economy.

SPACE ECONOMY BET

Oppenheimer turns bullish on SpaceX growth outlook

NEW YORK

Investment research firm Oppenheimer & Co. has issued a bullish outlook on SpaceX, setting a price target of USD 190 and signaling strong confidence in the company's long-term growth prospects.

The outlook reflects increasing optimism around SpaceX's expanding dominance in the global space and satellite communications industry.

According to the report, SpaceX continues to benefit from its leadership in reusable rocket technology, which has significantly reduced launch costs and improved mission frequency. The company's Starlink satellite internet division is also highlighted as a key growth driver, contributing to recurring revenue and expanding global connectivity, particularly in underserved regions.

Oppenheimer's analysis suggests that SpaceX is well-positioned to capitalize on rising demand for satellite-based broadband services, government contracts, and commercial space missions.

The firm notes that increasing adoption of space infrastructure services by both public and private sectors is creating a multi-decade growth opportunity.

The report also points to SpaceX's strong competitive advantage in launch capabilities, where it maintains a dominant market share in commercial orbital launches. This leadership is expected to strengthen further as global satellite deployment accelerates and new space-based applications emerge.

In addition, advancements in Starship development are seen as a major catalyst for future growth. The fully reusable launch system is expected to enable heavier payloads and reduce costs further, opening new possibilities for deep-space exploration and large-scale satellite deployment.

Despite the positive outlook, analysts acknowledge risks related to regulatory scrutiny, high capital expenditure requirements, and execution challenges in next-generation spacecraft development. However, these risks are considered manageable in light of the company's technological lead and strong demand pipeline.

Robinson ruled out of second Test with knee injury

LONDON

England have suffered another injury blow ahead of the second Test against New Zealand, with fast bowler Ollie Robinson ruled out due to a knee problem. The setback adds to England's growing concerns over the availability of key pace bowlers as they prepare for the match at The Oval.

Robinson experienced discomfort in his knee during a training session in Hove and was subsequently withdrawn from the squad for the second Test. England's medical team will conduct further assessments to determine the extent of the injury, although there is optimism that the seamer could return for the third and final Test at Trent Bridge later this month.

The 32-year-old will remain with the squad while undergoing treatment and evaluation, indicating that team management does not currently view the injury as a long-term concern. Nevertheless, his absence represents a significant setback given the form he displayed on his return to the Test side.

To bolster their options, England have drafted in Sussex left-arm pacer Henry Crocombe as cover. Crocombe has impressed in county cricket this season, taking 21 wickets in Division One of the County Championship. He also strengthened his credentials with a four-wicket haul for England Lions against South Africa A earlier this month.

England's bowling resources are already under pressure, making Robinson's injury particularly untimely. The team is without several frontline pace options and must now reconsider its bowling combination for a crucial match in the series. Robinson had only recently earned a recall and immediately justified his selection with an outstanding performance at Lord's, where he claimed match figures of 7 for 77 and played a leading role in England's victory.

The selectors still have experienced options available, including the recalled Jofra Archer, along with Matthew Fisher and Sonny Baker. However, replacing a bowler of Robinson's recent impact will not be straightforward.

The latest injury is another frustrating chapter in Robinson's career, which has frequently been disrupted by fitness issues. Despite an impressive Test record and considerable promise, injuries have often halted his progress. After working hard on his fitness and returning to the national setup, the Sussex captain now faces another recovery challenge.

Hosts face mounting bowling concerns ahead of crucial Oval encounter

West Indies edge Sri Lanka to seal thrilling T20I series 2-1

KINGSTON

Sherfane Rutherford produced a match-winning unbeaten half-century as West Indies clinched the three-match T20 International series 2-1 with a thrilling five-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the deciding contest. Chasing 170 for victory, the hosts reached 170-5 with two balls to spare in a tense finish.

Rutherford remained unbeaten on 54 off 40 deliveries and held his nerve during the closing stages of the chase. He received crucial support from Jason Holder, who blasted 21 not out from just five balls, including three towering sixes in the penultimate over that swung the contest decisively in West Indies' favour.

The match had remained evenly poised throughout after Sri Lanka posted a competitive 169. The visitors were hurt by two dropped catches that allowed Rutherford to continue his innings and eventually guide the hosts home.

Earlier, West Indies captain opted to bowl after winning the toss, a decision vindicated by an outstanding spell from Shamar Joseph. The fast bowler claimed 5-33, earning Player of the Match honours and playing a pivotal role in restricting Sri Lanka's batting lineup.

Sri Lanka started positively, reaching 49-1 after five overs. However, Joseph struck twice in the sixth over to halt the momentum. Pathum Nissanka scored 26 off 17 balls, while Dunith Wellalage anchored the innings with a valuable 43 from 28 deliveries. Wanindu Hasaranga added a quick 21 before being run out in the 19th over. Joseph then returned to claim three wickets in the final over as Sri Lanka finished on 169.

West Indies suffered an early setback when Shai Hope fell in the opening over. Although the hosts raced to 52, they then lost three wickets for one run, allowing Sri Lanka back into the contest. Rovman Powell's brisk 33 and an 81-run partnership with Rutherford revived the chase.

A costly 17th over from Dushmantha Chameera yielded 24 runs and shifted the momentum permanently. Holder's late assault left only six runs required from the final over, which Rutherford completed calmly to secure the series victory.

Sri Lanka had earlier won the ODI series 1-0. The teams will next meet in a two-Test series beginning on June 25 in Antigua.

Rutherford's unbeaten fifty guides hosts to dramatic victory in decider

Deepika's brace powers India to thrilling comeback win over USA

AUCKLAND

The Indian women's hockey team produced a spirited comeback to defeat the United States 3-2 in its opening Pool A match of the FIH Nations Cup on Monday, boosting its hopes of earning promotion back to the elite Pro League.

Trailing by two goals inside the opening seven minutes, India showed remarkable resilience to score three unanswered goals before halftime and secure a valuable victory in a tournament where the champions will earn a place in next season's Pro League. India were relegated from the top-tier competition last season and are aiming for an immediate return.

The Americans made a flying start and stunned India with two early goals. Ashley Sessa opened the scoring with a field goal in the fourth minute before Madeleine Zimmer doubled the advantage through a penalty corner just three minutes later.

Facing an uphill task, India gradually found their rhythm and began creating opportunities in attack. Their revival was sparked by drag-flick specialist Deepika, who converted a penalty corner in the 17th minute to reduce the deficit and inject confidence into the side.

India continued to dominate possession and earned another penalty corner midway through the second quarter. Deepika once again stepped up and delivered, firing home her second goal in the 24th minute to level the scores at 2-2. The equaliser shifted momentum completely in India's favour. Just four minutes later, Navneet Kaur successfully converted another penalty corner to complete a remarkable turnaround and give India a 3-2 lead heading into the halftime break.

The second half proved to be a tense battle as both teams searched for further goals. The USA pressed hard for an equaliser, while India looked to extend their advantage through quick counterattacks. Both sides earned six penalty corners during the contest, but disciplined defending and goalkeeping ensured no further goals were scored.

India held firm in the closing stages despite sustained American pressure, securing all three points and an ideal start to their Nations Cup campaign. The victory moved India to second place in Pool A with three points, level with leaders Japan Women's National Field Hockey Team, who top the standings on goal difference.

The result underlines India's determination to return to the Pro League and provides valuable momentum ahead of their remaining pool-stage matches.

Australia's praise biggest reward for historic series win: Mehidy

DHAKA

Bangladesh captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz has hailed his team's maiden ODI series victory over Australia as a landmark achievement, saying the respect earned from Australian players was the most rewarding aspect of the success. Bangladesh clinched a historic 2-1 series win, taking the first ODI by 86 runs and the second by five wickets via the DLS method before Australia won the final match by one wicket.

Mehidy said the praise from Australian players for Bangladesh's batting and bowling reflected the team's significant progress and growing stature in international cricket. The skipper also commended fast bowler Shoriful Islam for seizing his opportunity and stressed that healthy competition within the squad is helping raise performance standards.

Reflecting on the head injury he suffered during the second ODI, Mehidy admitted he ignored medical advice because he feared losing momentum against Australia. The series triumph is regarded as one of Bangladesh's most significant achievements in ODI cricket history.

NITISH KUMAR REDDY emerges as India's all-round hope for 2027 WC

DHARAMSHALA

India may have found a promising long-term solution to one of their biggest concerns in limited-overs cricket, with Nitish Kumar Reddy steadily emerging as a strong contender for the seam-bowling all-rounder's role ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup.

For years, Hardik Pandya has been India's most valuable all-round asset in white-ball cricket, capable of changing games with both bat and ball. However, recurring injuries have frequently disrupted his career and raised concerns about India's dependence on him. Back issues, an ankle injury during the 2023 World Cup, recurring spasms and a recent quadriceps strain have highlighted the need for a reliable backup.

That search may have led India to 23-year-old Nitish Kumar Reddy, who first grabbed national attention with a memorable century at the Melbourne Cricket Ground during the 2024-25 Test series in Australia. While initially regarded more as a batter who could bowl medium pace, Nitish has worked extensively to transform himself into a genuine all-round option.

With the 2027 ODI World Cup scheduled in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia—conditions expected to favour pace bowlers—India is keen to develop seam-bowling all-rounders who can contribute in both departments. Nitish has responded by making significant improvements to his bowling.

Ahead of the IPL season, he sought guidance from renowned fast-bowling coach Steffan Jones. The Englishman recommended adjustments to Nitish's front-on action, stride lengths and delivery mechanics. The results have been encouraging, with the youngster increasing his pace from the high 120s to the mid-130 kmph range while occasionally touching 139 kmph.

Equally important, Nitish has added variety to his bowling through yorkers and slower deliveries. His well-executed yorker to dismiss Rahmatullah Gurbaz in the first ODI showcased his growing skill set. During the IPL, he bowled 31 overs for Sunrisers Hyderabad and claimed eight wickets, marking his most productive season with the ball. With India set to play ODI series against England, West Indies, New Zealand and Zimbabwe before the World Cup, Nitish has a valuable opportunity to cement his place.

Young seam-bowling all-rounder strengthens credentials as Hardik Pandya's successor contender

Deepti breaks T20I record as India outclass Pakistan

EDGBASTON

Indian all-rounder Deepti Sharma etched her name into the record books with a sensational bowling performance as India defeated Pakistan by 64 runs in their opening match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 at Edgbaston.

Deepti delivered a match-winning spell of 5 for 10 from four overs, dismantling Pakistan's batting lineup and becoming the highest wicket-taker in Women's T20 International history. The off-spinner now has 166 wickets from 145 matches, surpassing Thailand's Thipatcha Putthawong, who previously held the record with 165 scalps.

The remarkable achievement capped a memorable evening for the Indian star, who was named Player of the Match for her outstanding contribution. Her five-wicket haul also placed her in an elite group of Indian bowlers to achieve the feat in a Women's T20 World Cup, joining Priyanka Roy and Renuka Singh Thakur.

Earlier, India posted a challenging total of 170 for 6 after being asked to bat. Opener Smriti Mandhana anchored the innings with a fluent 68 off 44 deliveries, striking boundaries at regular intervals and providing stability after early setbacks. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur chipped in with a composed 36 as the pair rebuilt the innings through a crucial partnership.

The finishing touches were applied by wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh, who smashed an unbeaten 34 from just 17 balls. Her aggressive strokeplay in the final overs lifted India to a formidable score and put Pakistan under immediate pressure.

Chasing 171, Pakistan struggled to gain momentum against India's disciplined bowling attack. While Muneeba Ali offered resistance with a fighting 41 off 35 balls, wickets fell regularly at the other end. Deepti exploited the conditions brilliantly, varying her pace and maintaining impeccable control to dismantle the middle and lower order.

Pakistan were eventually bowled out for 106 in the 17th over, handing India a convincing victory and a dream start to their World Cup campaign. With both a record-breaking milestone and a commanding team performance, India underlined their credentials as strong contenders for the title.

Joshna Chinnappa secures record seventh Asian Games berth

CHENNAI

Veteran Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa has qualified for the Asian Games for a record seventh time, highlighting her remarkable longevity nearly 24 years after her debut at the continental event. The former World No. 10 topped Group A in the Asian Games selection trials at the Indian Squash and Triathlon Academy in Chennai, securing her place with victories over Rathika Seelan, Akanksha Salunkhe and Unnati Tripathi.

The 39-year-old described the achievement as special and reflected on her first Asian Games appearance in Busan in 2002, which she said remains one of the most memorable experiences of her career. Joshna credited her passion for representing India for sustaining her motivation over the years.

Her latest success comes after a challenging period following knee surgery in late 2023, which saw her ranking fall beyond 400. Despite the setback and tougher tournament draws, she rebuilt her form and confidence, highlighted by her Japan Open title last year.

Joshna acknowledged the demanding trial format, which required multiple matches in a day, but said experience and preparation helped her succeed. She now hopes to contribute in the team and doubles events at the Games while continuing to mentor younger players.

Meanwhile, Anahat Singh, Veer Chotrani and Abhay Singh have already secured Asian Games berths through their PSA rankings, with more qualifiers expected after the trials conclude.

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